

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 7, 1991

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VETERANS' DAY

Survivors remember River Kwai bridge builders

By Maxine Stewart

In June 1942, during World War II, the Imperial Japanese Army was instructed to build the 275-mile-long railway connecting Bangkok, Thailand, with Moulmein, Burma. The line was a link with Burma, to transport supplies and troops toward India.

Laborers were "imported" from countries that the Japanese had conquered — Malays, Burmese, Chinese, Indonesians, and Eurasians. The fall of Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Dutch East Indies meant that many thousands of prisoners-of-war were also available. Work began in October 1942.

The first bridge across the Kwai River was a temporary one for carrying supplies until the permanent steel bridge was completed in October 1943, the steel coming from Java.

As the railway moved further into the jungle, deaths from malnutrition, malaria, cholera, dysentery, worm infestations, and exhaustion soared. The Japanese refused to let symbols for POW camps be displayed, and many died from bombings by their own aircraft.

More than 100,000 forced laborers and 16,000 POWs died during the construction of what is known as the "Death Railway."

Official British records indicate that 30,000 British, 13,000 Australian, 18,000 Dutch, and 700 Americans worked on the railway. Many POW and Asian laborers were force-marched to the camps scattered along the 415 kilometers of railroad. The



Soldiers who died building the Bridge over the River Kwai are buried in the Allied War Cemetery in Thailand, not far from the bridge. War veterans who survived the terrible days have met here often in tearful reunions. Also, every year, veterans

and relatives of Allied soldiers who died in Kanchanaburi during World War II, go to pay their respects and to lay wreaths at their final resting place. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

monsoon seasons added to the difficulties of movement and work.

At the war cemetery at Kanchanaburi, Thailand, the Cross of Sacrifice dominates the neat, square memorial stones. The land was

donated by the local citizens, who are warmly remembered by the survivors for the way in which they helped the POWs by providing food, medication, and money — often at great risk to themselves — all smuggled in tobacco

boxes. The cemetery is kept by Thai gardeners employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

In addition to many groups of relatives of the dead who go to Thailand each year to pay their last

respects, there are four groups who remember them yearly: the Japanese in March; Australians and New Zealanders on April 25; the Dutch on May 5; and the British on Nov. 11. The cemetery is also visited regularly by war veterans, high ranking officials, and thousands of tourists.

More than 116,000 died building the "Death Railway."

The railway now extends 51 miles from Kanchanaburi to Nam Tok, where there was another prison camp.

There is a War Museum at Kanchanaburi, Thailand, housed in narrow bamboo huts built to resemble the crude dormitories in which the prisoners resided. War memorabilia, photographs, and sketches of the Allied soldiers at the time of the bridge's construction are on display. The sketches were smuggled out of the camps in the hollow wooden legs of the many amputees who had lost their legs.

Although several attempts had been made to bomb the notorious "Death Railway" bridge, beginning in late 1944, it was not accomplished until Feb. 13, 1945, when it was destroyed by a squadron of American B-24s. It has long since been repaired and now stands as a memorial to the tens of thousands of Allied troops and Oriental laborers who died while being forced to lay the 275 miles of track.

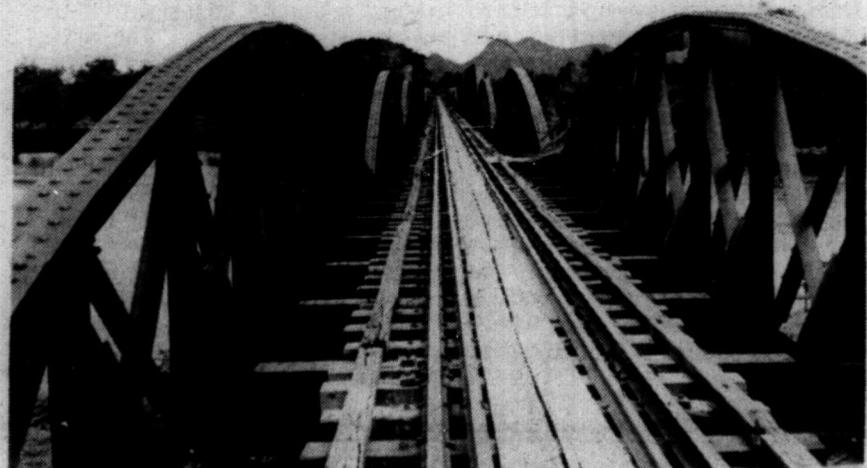
Stewart is missionary press representative, Thailand.



On Private D. Shearer's grave marker are these words: "MY BELOVED SON, I BLESS THE YEARS I HAD WITH YOU AND LEAVE THE REST TO GOD." (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

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"Death Railroad" Bridge Over the River Kwai: Note the planks between the rails for the convenience of those walking or for motorcycles today. Train trips can be taken on Saturdays and Sundays from Bangkok through the mountainous jungle country of the Kwai valley. The train passes through the town of Kanchanaburi and then slowly over the River Kwai Bridge about four minutes later. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

Thursday, November 7, 1991

Guy Henderson

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

"Big deal"

Apparently in the Corinth church, they had made a big deal out of spiritual gifts. It had become the litmus test for real spirituality. They not only had political parties — the Apollos party, the Cephus party — but they paraded their spiritual gifts like proud peacocks.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul begins with the last of the gifts mentioned in Chapter 12. A. T. Robertson notes that Paul "may be pointing out the worthlessness of extravagant manifestation of emotion, which proceeds, not from the heart, but from hollowness." He speaks of tongues, asceticism, clairvoyance, mystic wisdom, and special graduate study in education, all of which can have the sound of sounding brass and tinkling bells. Apart from love, the best of utterance from men (or women) or angels is akin to nothing.

Psychic powers, prayer healing, mountain-moving faith, the vow of poverty, even martyrdom, may impress the congregation, but without love the end result is zero. This agape love does not "behave disgracefully, strives not for its own advantage, is

not habitually irritable," but as R. Paul Caudill says, "Love does not set down an evil matter in the credit side of the ledger." One day, Bible teaching ability, oratory, and vast knowledge will be set aside, but love will remain.

There is a contrast between youthfulness and adulthood; the mature person no longer talks, thinks, and reasons as a child. The child is impressed by the emotional use of these gifts. Loud sounds, beautiful robes, high titles will impress many; sacrifice, giving all you have bit by bit to nourish the hungry or to save the humpback whale will have them standing in awe; possess many great gifts of knowledge and we gasp with pleasure. Paul says, "Big deal," according to Edward E. Thornton, but without love it is vain, empty, and childish. Other gifts will pass away, but faith, hope, and love remain forever.

Dare we divide a page, and for one week write on one side the deeds done through love and on the other side write the deeds done for self, for the praise of others, or to impress our

peers. There is a difference in childlike and childish.

Church leaders and members have to make decisions each week. These decisions affect our fellow members, the association, our state convention and seminaries, schools, and missionaries. One convention leader said the SBC is developing a "Masada complex" and just as the Jews withdrew to Masada (only to die), the SBC is withdrawing to our Masada. I doubt this is the case, but we can shield and isolate ourselves with ideals, philosophies, even theology, and withdraw from a community and a world that needs our ministry. We do not need a monastic order or private clubs, nor will secluded societies become the salt of the earth.

An association of churches can do together what one church could never do alone. A convention can impact more people because of the number of churches working together. We will impress few with a spiritual gift exhibition or an egocentric display of talent. Showing the love of Christ in a Christ-like way will always gain credence in the marketplace.

Baptists worldwide comment on Ruschlikon seminary defunding

Few things seemingly have irritated Baptists lately like the Ruschlikon seminary matter. The Foreign Mission Board trustees voted 35 to 28 to eliminate the \$365,000 for the 1992 operating budget of the school.

The FMB office in Richmond has been flooded with telephone calls, resolutions, and FAXes protesting the action. Meanwhile, SBC leaders have been strangely silent, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders speak of trying to fund the school.

Kentucky trustees William Hancock fears there has been an organized effort on both sides to generate emotional responses. He believes it will be re-opened in the December meeting, but emotional responses may have galvanized opinions even more.

Daniel Watts, Mississippi trustee and pastor in Jackson, said they had an agreement with the seminary in which the seminary would move toward a more conservative stance and the seminary had failed to live up to the agreement. "Glenn Hinson's teaching there is evidence of turning toward liberalism. Baptists will not understand the board's action apart from Hinson's writings. Also, the funds will now be directed toward a seminary in eastern Europe where they are pleading for theological education."

Gregori Komendant, president of the Soviet Union of Evangelical Baptists, has issued a statement in support of continued funding for the seminary. Baptist unions in England, France, Italy, Finland, and Norway have expressed support for the seminary.

Meanwhile, Ron Wilson, California pastor, has stated Hinson is considered "liberal even by other liberals," and continued to defend the trustee's action. "It's a matter of stewardship and we in good conscience could not overlook this. I think there will be more people who will have confidence in us now."

Terry Williams, FMB trustee and pastor of First, Batesville, declared he was at Glorieta in 1988 when Ruschlikon president John David Hopper agreed to move the seminary toward a more conservative and evangelistic direction. "The agreement has been broken," says Williams, "and I cannot support liberal theology; I had to vote my convictions."

Ruschlikon president Hopper called the trustees' action "a devastating blow" to Southern Baptist work in Europe. This could well mean the severing of many or most working relationships between the SBC and Cooperating Baptists of Europe, according to Hopper.

Paige Patterson of Dallas believes

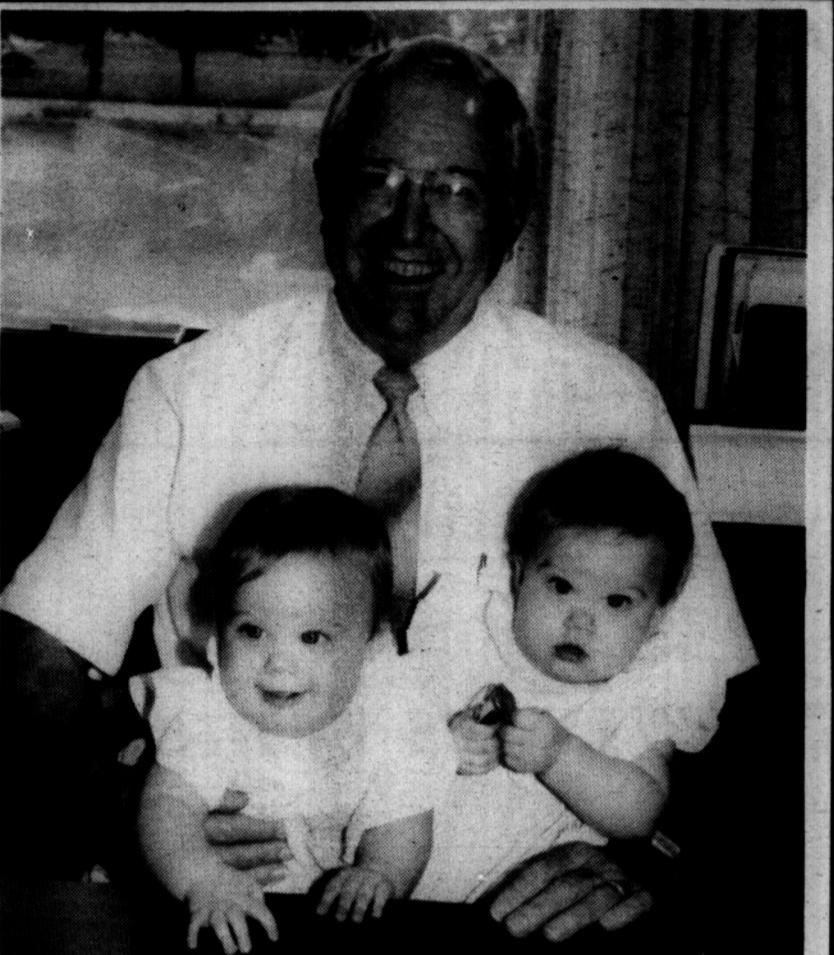
the funding question had been settled, declaring, "If I were a betting man, I would bet it would not succeed." Steve Hardy, North Carolina trustee, says things may be evaluated but "I doubt the committee will change its mind."

Keith Parks, FMB president, has urged Baptist not to let the denominational controversies damage giving to the Lottie Moon offering. If Lottie Moon offering falls short then the total mission program of 3,900 missionaries in 121 nations will suffer.

Randy Davis, trustee and pastor at Van Cleave, said it was a difficult decision and Ruschlikon had not kept integrity in an earlier agreement for a more conservative direction. The decision was based on theological integrity, not convention politics. "When the dust settles, theological education will continue to be a priority in Europe supported by Southern Baptists."

The Ruschlikon seminary has now named David Rogers of Nashville as a vice president for development. Rogers, 44, will help raise funds in the United States and Europe. In San Antonio, Texas, P. Joseph Brake, an attorney and Southern Baptist layman, is president of the new Friends of Ruschlikon foundation. — GH

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First anniversary

The year has passed with blazing speed, and I confess to have enjoyed my work as editor of our state paper. All the family has joined in making it a memorable experience. My wife remodeled the kitchen, my son celebrated the event by moving off to Connecticut, and the number one daughter moved to Costa Rica. She did send a note of congratulations, ending with "Misericordia, misericordia." The youngest daughter totaled a Toyota while working for a rival newspaper and the middle daughter presented me with twin granddaughters during last year's convention to memorialize the occasion.

My 90-year-old mother, who has never considered a preacher as being anything other than a pastor, upon hearing I was editor said, "Son, you'll still be preaching, won't you?" Anyhow, the twins Hayley and Julianna showed a journalistic flair as they visited the editor's office.

1991 church yearbook finds membership patterns consistent

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Many U.S. liberal mainline Protestant denominations saw small membership losses again in 1989, while the Roman Catholic Church and several conservative evangelical denominations recorded gains, according to the *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 1991* released in October.

At the same time, giving increased by an average 5.4% in 1989 in the nine U.S. denominations whose members' total contributions are compared by the yearbook each year, exceeding the 4.8% inflation rate for 1989, resulting in increased real income for these denominations.

Reports from 219 U.S. religious bodies show that 147,607,394 (or 59.3%) of Americans belonged to one of their churches, synagogues, or other religious congregations in 1989, an overall gain of 1.5% over the 1988 total of 145,383,738, compared with a 0.9% growth in the U.S. population.

The 32 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican member churches of the National Council of Churches reported a combined inclusive membership of 41,803,752 in 1989, down from 41,951,333 in 1988.

U.S. religious bodies reporting a net inclusive membership increase in 1989

over 1988 included the Christian and Missionary Alliance (up from 259,612 to 265,863, or 2.41%), the Church of God, Anderson, Ind. (up from 198,842 to 199,786, or 0.47%), the Church of the Nazarene (up from 552,264 to 561,253, or 1.63%), the Free Methodist Church of North America (up from 73,647 to 75,869, or 3.02%), the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (up from 198,715 to 203,060, or 2.19%), and the Jehovah's Witnesses (up from 804,639 to 825,570, or 2.60%).

Also reporting gains were the Presbyterian Church in America (up from 208,394 to 217,374, or 4.3%), the Roman Catholic Church (up from 54,918,949 to 57,019,948, or 3.83%), the Seventh Day Adventist Church (up from 687,200 to 701,781, or 2.12%), the Southern Baptist Convention (up from 14,812,844 to 14,978,826, or 0.64%) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (up from 2,604,278 to 2,609,025, or 0.18%).

Among church bodies showing inclusive membership losses (in 1988 over 1988 unless otherwise noted) were The Episcopal Church (down from 2,455,422 to 2,433,413, a loss of 0.90%) and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (down from 2,929,608 to 2,866,482, a loss of 1.47%).

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Paul and Nicole Johnson



Denson



Busby



Gautier

Youths will look at "The Heart of the Matter"

"The Heart of the Matter" is the theme of this year's Youth Evangelism Conference, set for Dec. 30-31 at the Mississippi College coliseum.

The conference, designed for high school and college youths, will feature speakers, music, and drama. Topics will include the thirsty heart, the searching heart, the receptive heart, and the passionate heart.

Speakers will be Dave Busby and Mike Curry. Busby is an evangelist from Edina, Minn. Curry is a youth evangelist from Little Rock. He is co-author of the book, *The Kid Killer*, dealing with teen suicide. He serves as a consultant to law enforcement officials in investigations involving occult and satanic criminal activities.

Paul and Nicole Johnson of Murfreesboro, Tenn., will perform gospel drama. And Al Denson and Kathy Gautier will serve as musicians. Denson is a concert artist from Irving, Tex., with four albums recorded. Gautier is a member of First Church, Jackson.

The program begins at 2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 30, and concludes at 3:45 the next afternoon. Leaders and counselors are to meet at 1:15 on Dec. 30. There is a registration fee of \$5 per person.

Pre-registration is requested, but not required.

To pre-register, write the sponsor, the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Criswell College dismisses Patterson

DALLAS (BP) — Paige Patterson, one of the chief architects of the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, allegedly has been dismissed as president of Criswell College in Dallas.

The Dallas Morning News reported the school's dean of students, Danny Adkins, announced the dismissal to the student body Oct. 31, saying it was part of an across-the-board administrative shakeup. He said the Criswell College board of trustees met in executive session on Oct. 28 and voted to dismiss all of the school's administrators, including Patterson.

According to the Dallas Times Herald, after the announcement Thursday morning, Patterson received a vote of confidence from 135 of the

school's 335 students who said Patterson's dismissal would "affect their enrollment" at Criswell College. Of the 176 who participated in the vote, 22 said they would not be affected, and 19 were undecided.

The newspaper cited sources as saying the dismissal — which had been rumored for several months — came as the climax to a long-standing feud between Patterson, high-level administrators, and members of the school's board of trustees.

The Dallas Morning News credited officials knowledgeable about Criswell College as saying Patterson's dismissal came as the result of his spending too much time and energy

(See PATTERSON on page 7)

State Baptists will gather at First, Jackson, next week

Mississippi Baptists will gather in Jackson, Nov. 11-13, to take care of official business, hear inspirational speakers and musicians, and elect officers.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention will be opened at 8:50 a.m., Nov. 11, by President Eddie Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson. It will close the next evening at 8:30, following a message by John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

In between, there will be six sessions, four of which will have devotional messages traditionally called "Bible Treasures."

This year's devotionals will be given by Stuart Arnold, an evangelist and retired pastor of Citadel Square Church in Charleston, S.C.

Other major messages will be delivered by Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (Tuesday afternoon); the president's address by Eddie Hamilton (Tuesday morning); the convention sermon by Gary Berry, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg (Wednesday morning); a convention board emphasis by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the MBCB (Tuesday evening); and a message by Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board (Wednesday afternoon).

Among the business items, besides electing officers (the president is completing his second year of a traditional two-term office) the convention will vote a 1992 budget, and hear reports from the various agencies of

the 2,000-church organization.

The budget recommended by the convention board with only two negative votes, is for \$21,588,435. This budget would send 37% to the SBC, the same percentage sent in 1991. This is a change from previous years when the convention voted to increase that percentage a half percent a year. Convention leaders said church giving to the Cooperative Program has not kept pace with what the convention has been asked to do.

Another potential business matter for convention consideration would be relative to Clarke College which this past year lost its accreditation. Some people want to close the junior college, others want to keep it open. Currently, the school is operated by the

(See CONVENTION on page 7)

Hopper: "Defunding ruptures trust"

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The president of the international Baptist seminary in Switzerland says the vote by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees to defund the seminary's operating budget is rupturing European trust of Southern Baptists and forcing the seminary to accelerate fund-raising efforts.

In a statement released Oct. 29, John David Hopper said the trustees' unexpected action "dismayed" and "deeply saddened" him and outraged European Baptist leaders.

FMB trustees voted 35-28 on Oct. 9 to cut the \$365,000 the board had allocated for the 1992 operating budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and redirect the money to theological needs in Eastern Europe.

The action could cause many European Baptists to sever relations with Southern Baptists, said Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary who was elected seminary president in 1988. It

"That (rupture of relationships) is ironic since the seminary was started by Southern Baptists in 1948 as a gesture of reconciliation in postwar Europe," he said. The Foreign Mission Board deeded the school to European Baptists in 1989.

"The hope which remains at this moment is that wise trustees of the Richmond board will reconsider the hasty action taken on Oct. 9 and res-

cind it," Hopper said. "Many Europeans, Americans, and others see no reason to try to kill an institution at the heart of Baptist work on this continent for more than 40 years."

FMB trustees, however, feel their vote does not breach trust and that other European Baptists would agree with it, according to trustee Ron Wilson of California. Trustees had "to vote our conscience," Wilson said.

Many of the trustees have disagreed with the seminary's theological stance for years, Wilson said. They felt the school showed a continuing "liberal" direction by recently allowing Glenn Hinson, a professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to teach for four months on sabbatic leave. Trustees perceive Hinson as "liberal," Wilson said.

The Ruschlikon seminary board made plans a year ago to raise funds, anticipating the FMB would begin decreasing budget contributions after

(See DEFUNDING on page 5)

German, British Baptists may not accept future SBC missionaries

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Baptist leaders in Germany and Great Britain will consider ending "partnership arrangements" with the Foreign Mission Board — a move that could prevent future Southern Baptist missionaries from serving in the two countries.

The actions will be considered in separate meetings in England and Germany in the next few days. European Baptists are upset that the Foreign Mission Board voted Oct. 9 to eliminate its support of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, amid charges of liberalism at the seminary.

Meanwhile:

Trustees of the Ruschlikon seminary issued a strongly worded statement Nov. 2 deplored the FMB action, which the trustees said "damages the credibility and integrity of the FMB in Europe and around the world."

Officials at the FMB are aware their ties with English and German Baptists are in jeopardy, but they stress a rupture in the relationships is not a foregone conclusion.

"There have been some requests to reconsider (ties) completely," said Keith Parker, who oversees work in

Europe for the Foreign Mission Board.

But he added, "Nothing has been decided yet."

But FMB President Keith Parks urged the British and Germans to exercise restraint in their deliberations. I'm hoping they won't do anything drastic and will wait until after our December board meeting to give trustees a chance to look at the Ruschlikon issue again.

The leaders assembled by FMB chairman Hancock Dec. 5-6 will re-examine the funding question in preparation for the board's regular meeting Dec. 9-11. "This is my effort to bring these people together, to get them in the same room to consider the defunding action," Hancock said.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD. Story includes information from Mary Knox, editor, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

Dial 969-PRAY

By Anne W. McWilliams

969-PRAY.

You can dial that Jackson number, hear a recorded missions prayer request, and then, if you wish, leave a prayer request of your own.

With Charles and Indy Whitten as prayer coordinators, Mississippi is leading the way in Bold Mission Prayer Thrust at the state level. The Whittens, who live in Clinton, work five mornings a week at the Baptist Building as unsalaried volunteers.

For the state Baptist convention next week they have arranged a prayer booth. So far, 51 associations have named prayer coordinators; several of them will help man the booth.

The Whittens, in 40 years on the mission field in Argentina, Spain, and Equatorial Guinea, learned well the value of prayer for missions and missionaries. For instance, Charles might not be here had it not been for the

prayers of Southern Baptists, in the wake of a terrible auto accident in Spain when he nearly died. The wreck happened on his birthday, a day he was listed on prayer calendars nationwide.

Indy's thoughts on the importance of intercessory prayer are recorded in Helen Jean Parks' book, *Holding the Ropes*: "I think back on our earlier newsletters. They were more travel reports or accounts of unusual or funny happenings. Such are good as background but time convinces me

that the main thing is to enlist prayer support. Formerly I had said repeatedly, 'Pray for us. Pray for the work, etc.' But my concept about the importance and absolute necessity of prayer partners in the States for home and foreign missionaries changed. A friend impressed on me the need to have definite persons and projects to pray for and to receive reports when the prayers are answered. I began this prayer partnership and many have been the answers as a result of it."

Actually, prayer got them into this latest project. When last spring they asked the Lord what they might do to serve him best in coming months, they got a call from Paul Harrell, director, state Brotherhood and thus leader of the prayer ministry, asking if they would be the coordinators.

Weekly they compile prayer requests from telephone recordings and other sources and send Prayergrams to directors of missions and Baptist Building personnel. One of their goals is to lead churches to begin their own local intercessory prayer ministries and to encourage churches that already have one. Often they lead prayer retreats and prayer conferences throughout the state. For these, their travel expenses are paid by the convention board; also they have a secretary to help with paperwork.

Prayergrams ask prayer for missionaries and for the lost — prayer for reaching Mississippi and the world for Christ. Also prayers for individuals who are ill or have other problems are included.

"When we pray for those who are ill and follow their progress, we feel they are our family," Indy said. "This has turned out to be a counseling ministry, too."



Charles and Indy Whitten receive prayer requests by phone. (Photos by Florence Ann Larrimore)

"Not only have I realized more fully the importance of prayer for the lost, but also the importance of witnessing," Charles said. When someone mistakenly called the prayer line, Charles didn't miss a beat. When he returned an 800-number call on the answering machine he got a man in Arkansas. At the man's hesitation, Charles said, "You reached the prayer office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

"I was calling an investment company," the confused man answered.

"This is the prayer line," Charles said. "What church do you go to?"

"I'm not calling about spiritual matters," came the reply.

"The important thing is to know Jesus as personal Saviour. Are you a Christian?"

"I like to think of myself as a Christian."

"We'll remember to pray for you."

One answer to their prayers concerned their daughter, Margaret Drummonds, who with her mis-

sionary husband has transferred from El Salvador to Nicaragua. Sam teaches at seminary in Managua; Margaret asked for prayer that she would find her own place of service.

Dial 969-PRAY to listen to a recorded prayer request or to leave your own prayer request on the recorder. Dial 968-3800 mornings, Mon.-Fri., if you wish to talk directly with Charles or Indy Whitten about your prayer request.

The answer came when she was asked to translate for the wife of an evangelist preaching in the country. This opened the door for her to minister in leadership of women, as she had done in El Salvador.

When Charles preached in Indiana, a young woman was converted. She came and placed her arm around him and said, "If you had not come, I would still be lost."

This started him thinking how much

influence prayer had had on all of his life — sending him to the mission field, keeping him there, and in almost everything he has done. "If it had not been for intercessory prayers of others for me, I would not be sitting in this office. Sometimes we don't realize how much people's prayers have been poured into our lives and ministry."

He retold a story of John Brock, prayer coordinator for Choctaw Association and pastor at Ackerman. John's church has a prayer room with an unlocked door that opens onto the street and where the light burns all night. One morning John heard strange sounds coming from the room and called the police. They found a woman in there in her nightgown, blood streaming down the side of her head. The woman, in her 90s, had fallen in her own yard the night before, and become disoriented and lost. She had wandered toward the light and gone in.

Prayer is like that. It shines as a light of hope where there is no other hope.

Special interest groups to meet in pre-convention activities

By Tim Nicholas

In addition to the full slate of business and inspiration during the Mississippi Baptist Convention, convention week offers more meetings for the sake of heart.

There is one for pastors, one for laypersons, and one for wives of ministers.

The Pastors' Conference takes place at First Church, Jackson, on Nov. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. with congregational praise and concluding after a message by Bobby Welch who begins at 8:30 that evening.

Welch is pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla. Other outside speakers include Mike Gilchrist, an evangelist from Shreveport; David Ring, an evangelist from Orlando; and Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson, Tenn.

Mississippi speakers include M.L. Falter, pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi; Odus Jackson, pastor of Leesburg Church, Morton; and Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of New Sight Church, Brookhaven.

Music leaders include Ronnie Cottingham, a music evangelist from Agricola; Floyd Grice, minister of music at Salem Heights Church, Laurel; and Mike Harlan, minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon. Bruce Smith, a student at Ole Miss and a member of West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, will sing. And Cliff Brown, manager of WDAM-TV for Laurel/Hattiesburg, will give his

testimony.

Dwight Smith, pastor of West Ellisville Church, is president of the pastors' conference.

The Lay Missions Conference will also take place on Monday, Nov. 11 at First Church, Jackson. This conference has three segments: a series of special interest group meetings at 1 p.m.; a program at 3 p.m. concerned with making one's Christian witness known on a day to day basis; and a missions banquet.

The special interest group choices include agricultural missions, church renewal, Campers on Mission, medical-dental missions, ham radio missions, church construction, and Cooperative Program champions. Also, there will be a seminar for volunteers in mission. This is for those interested in volunteer mission work with the Home or Foreign Mission Board.

The second event in the Lay Missions conference is a message on Missions in the Marketplace. This year's program will be led by Tillie Burgin, director of a ministry in Arlington, Tex., that feeds the hungry and offers Bible study to hundreds.

The missions banquet takes place at 5 p.m., with Dennis Swanberg as after-dinner speaker. Swanberg is pastor of First Church, West Monroe, La. The banquet requires purchase of a ticket at \$7.50 per person. To secure a ticket, write the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

MBREA will meet, Jackson

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association has scheduled its fall luncheon for Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m. at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

Speaker for the luncheon will be Al Ridley, director of Sunday School Services for the Illinois Baptist Convention.

MBREA officers for 1991-92 are: Gary Shows, Hattiesburg, president; Joe Chapman, Madison, president-elect; Barbara Brown, Jackson, vice-president; and Marcus Peagler, Quitman, secretary/treasurer.

Cost for the luncheon is \$10. Participants may pre-pay by mailing the fee to Gary Shows, Temple Baptist Church, 1508 Hardy St., Hattiesburg, MS 39401.



LOTTIE D. is a dramatic musical about an extraordinary woman, Lottie Moon, Southern Baptist missionary to China for 40 years.

You Are Invited To Attend
One Of These Performances At

**First Baptist Church
Starkville, MS**

**Sunday, November 17, 1991, at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, November 18, 1991, at 7:00 p.m.**

Bring a group from your church. Call or write the music office at First Baptist Church for reserved seating for your group. There is no admission charge but an offering will be received to help defray the cost of this production.

F. Tanner Riley, Minister of Music
Telephone: 324-4969



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, November 7, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Congratulations to the editor!

Congratulations this week to Guy Henderson as he completes his first year as 10th editor of the Baptist Record!

"Being editor has been more enjoyable — and more demanding — than I had imagined," he said.

I think I speak for all six of us women on the staff when I say that what we admire most about him is his ability to appear always utterly relaxed and happy. I'm sure he must have some troubles and problems, but we never hear him complain about them.

"How do you keep such a positive outlook?" I asked. "Were you born with that prize-winning sense of humor or did you cultivate it?"

"I just know the sun's coming up in the morning," he answered. "I know that time is a great healer. And there's truth in the Bible verse I heard one woman quote, 'And it came to pass . . .'

"I grew up in a big happy family, and I just always enjoyed life. I enjoy people."

Though he was born in Jackson, he grew up in Smith and Scott counties, one of 11 children of James Monroe and Arrie Hawkins Henderson.

When he was elected editor, I already knew he was a good writer because I'd read his Broadman-published *Passport to Missions*, written while he was a missionary in the Philippines. The personal reflections between chapters are especially excellent. Some are deeply moving; some are funny; all take you right into the scene of action, and make you feel with the writer a love and compassion for people.

Have you read his essay called "Mississippi Tablecloth"? It's hilarious.

He first started writing during junior high days at Forest. While on the mission field in Korea, he wrote articles for the *Christian Century* and other magazines, as well as for the English language section of the *Korea Times*.

Once in Manila he wrote an article for a magazine under a pen name. But

only once. The publishers made his check out to the pen name, and he couldn't cash it.

"I like to read," he said, "and so do all my children." He reads at least two books a week and scans several others. Right now he's reading *The Service: The Memoirs of General Reinhard Gehlen* and *A Prophet with Honor, The Life Story of Billy Graham* by William Martin.

His wife, Lois, is my longtime friend and also my Sunday School teacher at Morrison Heights in Clinton. They live only a block from the church. However, most every Sunday he's preaching at other churches around the state. Nationally, too, he's a popular speaker. For instance, this year he's been on program twice at Ridgecrest, for Music Week and Chautauqua.

His favorite sermon topic, he said, is on the "theology of time": "God has no clock and is no timekeeper, but there is a time element throughout the Bible — for our benefit, not the Lord's."

In the woods south of Forest, between Homewood and Lorena, is a cabin with an "H" carved in every shutter; Guy built it on land that once belonged to his Grandpa Willie Hawkins.

One October Wednesday, Guy and Lois generously invited the *Baptist Record* employees to the cabin for a daylong retreat. During group discussion time, we reclined on the back porch. An outdoor picnic in the sunshine starred catfish and watermelon. (However, if the editor had to live on one food for 30 days, he said he'd pick peanut butter and crackers.) Walking in the woods, fishing, and boating were also on the agenda.

The pond in the hollow behind the cabin was once the baptismal pool for Lorena Church, scene of Guy's earliest church memories. (He was baptized at Forest Church.) Daughter Melinda and her husband, Russell Kyzar, and their little girl, Robin, joined us for the day. They are missionaries to Costa Rica.

The Hendersons' son, Rex, works with an automobile dealership and he and his wife Marjorie live in Connecticut. Daughter Pat (Mrs. Joseph Pardue) teaches school at Byram. The youngest, Angela (Mrs. Jeff McWhirter), is public relations director for a power company at Starkville. See page 2 for a photo by Florence Larrimore of two of the six grandchildren.

Guy and Lois met in Corpus Christi while he was in the Navy. It was there in 1947 that he surrendered to preach. Later, after a sociology major at Mississippi College and a degree from New Orleans Seminary, and during a pastorate at Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, the call to missions came.

"We had lots of Air Force people being sent out from that church, and they started missions in Alaska, Japan, and Spain," he remembers. "So I got interested in missions myself."

For 20 years they served with the Foreign Mission Board, he as field evangelist in Korea and then as pastor of International Baptist Church, Manila.

As *Baptist Record* editor, he's very conscientious about spending money wisely. Certainly he was a natural for the job when he was consultant with the state Stewardship Department. During his years as director of the state Evangelism Department, he must have met the other half of the people in the state that he did not already know. That's a plus for an editor. And when it comes to condensing articles, he wields a wicked pen. That's just the talent we need to help us fit all the mountains of material into 12 pages.

His goal for the *Baptist Record* in future, he said, is "to try to maintain the paper's integrity and fair reporting." "Of course," he added, "we are always seeking to have more readers."

As you begin another year here, Brother Guy, may all the Letters to the Editor be complimentary, and may every page of copy be without error!

relationships with (the) Southern Baptist Convention," said Vychopen, who urged the FMB to reconsider.

"I am afraid . . . our people will fear that in the future the SBC will not respect the Hungarian mission agreements," added Janos Viczian, president of the Baptist Union of Hungary. "Any time they might withdraw their financial support and even their missionaries.

"Ruschlikon could be the first step and we could be the second."

"I am sure the Foreign Mission Board members did not recognize that in Eastern Europe we have religious freedom, and without any problem the students from these countries can attend the International Baptist Seminary," Viczian continued. "This decision now makes this impossible."

In 1988 trustees asked European Baptist and seminary leaders to respond to 10 recommendations prior to the board's May 1989 transfer of ownership of the Ruschlikon seminary to the European Baptist Federation.

The points included a request that they put a statement of European Baptist beliefs in writing. European Baptists responded to the 10 points, but many trustees continue



"Christmas in August": Greenville

"Christmas in August" promoted by WMU — Girls in Action — was a special time for the Victory Temple Church in Greenville. Eddie Jones, pastor, is shown displaying some of the items sent to him from every state in the Southern Baptist Convention. Items included were string, paper, pencils, glue, and soap. Jones has expressed his thanks for the many boxes of useful and practical products.

Missouri messengers reject BJC funding

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (ABP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a recurring topic of controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years, took center stage during the Oct. 28-30 Missouri Baptist Convention in Springfield, Mo.

Messengers voted 890 to 700 Oct. 29 to reject a \$15,000 allocation for the BJC in Missouri Baptists' 1992 executive board budget.

The next day, however, members of the moderate-conservative Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Missouri pledged \$16,070 to replace the rejected funds.

Criticism aimed at the BJC included a four-page brochure distributed to

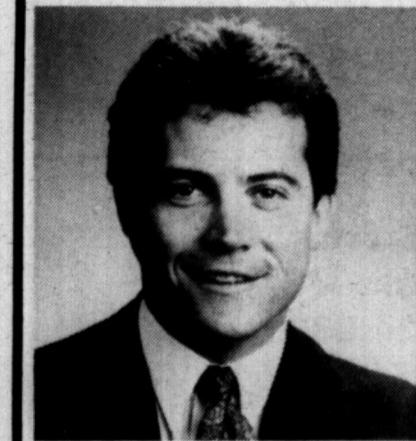
messengers as they entered the convention center. The material, published by the Missouri Baptist Layman's Association, charged the BJC has ties to liberal organizations and individuals.

Fellowship leaders later denounced the decision by Missouri Baptists. "The action of the convention is reprehensible," said Kirkwood pastor Paul Duke, a member of the national Fellowship's coordinating council. "It was a continuation of the ongoing disinheritance that Southern Baptists have been inflicting on themselves. It's a betrayal of our heritage, the selling out of our birthright. I'm ashamed."

Rick Gage
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First Baptist Church Of Sharon
Laurel, Mississippi
November 10-13

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Monday-Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



RICK GAGE
Atlanta, GA

TULLOS & LIBBY JONES
Denham Springs, LA

NELSON CROZIER, Pastor
TOM JENKINS, Minister of Music



Letters to the editor



Trust broken at Ruschlikon

Editor:

In the October meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, ties were broken with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Thirty-five trustees cast 42 years of cooperation between Southern Baptists and European Baptists to the wind.

No concern was shown for a young couple from Capetown who study in preparation to serve their South African people. Let the 35 explain their actions to the new Australian faculty member with a family of three children, the Bulgarian student who finally was able to leave her country to study at Ruschlikon, or to Italian Baptists, who depend on Ruschlikon to educate their pastors. Where is their concern for faculty and staff, who have devoted sacrificial years in service to the seminary and its mission?

During the decision, the voices of Southern Baptists who have spent decades in Europe went unheeded. Let no one be fooled. Glenn Hinson is not and never was the issue. Most importantly, European Baptists know better. For them, as for us, the issue is trust. Suddenly there were 35 "authorities" who knew more than the Baptist leaders of Europe, more than the trained and experienced mission experts in Richmond, more than Keith Parks himself — about legalities. Where does that place missions?

Let an outcry of missions over politics swell from the pews and prayer rooms of this land or else a group of 35 may effectively close the doors to a cooperation of witness based on trust between Southern and European Baptists forever.

Until June of this year we taught on that faculty for almost eight years. We know the vision and the mission of Ruschlikon. That's our reason. But you should be personally incensed, too. Trust has been broken with you! Thirty-five trustees have broken the good faith that has existed between

Southern and European Baptists for over 40 years. The damage they have done may be irreparable.

Kathy Queen — Sutherland
D. Dixon Sutherland
Professors, Baptist Theological Seminary
Ruschlikon, Switzerland

"Fundamentalists have hit rock bottom"

Editor:

I thought the Southern Baptists' fundamentalist camp had sunk as low as possible when they fired the two Baptist Press men but how mistaken I was. With their decision to withdraw funds already promised the seminary in Switzerland, they have hit rock bottom on the ethics and integrity scale.

Never in the history of SBC foreign missions has the rug ever been pulled out from under the people and missionaries overseas in such a manner.

From personal experience I know the leaders of that seminary are among God's choice servants. They have laid bridges of integrity and friendship all the way to Moscow and back. Just when the school enters its greatest years of ministry (for which it was founded) it is cut down to satisfy the agenda of a few who have no idea the extent of the harm they are doing to the kingdom of God in Europe.

Whenever people of any culture presume to know more than the people of another culture they are no longer useful witnesses but arrogant judges. God does not need any of us to go overseas and direct anything, but God does bless and use those who go as friends and fellow-servants working with and trusting the local believers and national Christian leaders. The students and faculty I know in Ruschlikon excel in reaching their own people for Christ.

Britt E. Towery Jr., FMB CSI
China Liaison (on furlough)
Waco, Texas

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No one to blame but ourselves

Editor:

I appreciate the "Guest opinion" by Ronnie Russell in the Oct. 24 issue, in which he expressed so clearly what I, as well as, I believe many Southern Baptists, have been feeling for some time. In many respects we have no one to blame but ourselves by sitting by and letting, as Russell stated, "Super churches and super egos, are the ones, after all, that got us into this mess."

I really don't know if Jess Moody should be supported for SBC president, but as Russell stated — when Moody's nomination meets with such opposition by the present power-brokers of both sides (moderate/fundamental) it should cause the rest of us to sit up and take notice.

Former SBC President Jimmy Draper expressed my present concern in a 1974 Broadman Press Book entitled *The Church Christ Approves* in which he stated, "Fundamentalism is more dangerous than liberalism because everything is done in the name of the Lord. In the name of the Lord, the fundamentalist condemns all who disagree with him . . . He uses the Bible as a club with which to beat people over the head rather than a means of personal strength and a revealer of God . . . As long as you support his position, he is with you. Cross him and he has no use whatever for you . . . In the name of the Lord they will launch vehement attacks on individuals and churches . . . They direct their attacks most often to other Christian leaders with whom they find disagreement . . ."

I have seen "Letters to the Editor" that have expressed disappointment with articles that report on activities not in total agreement with the present SBC leadership. Please continue to report on all Baptist activities. After all, we need to be kept abreast on what is going on and your paper does a great job doing that mission.

Travis Watson Jr.
Eupora

Demand a reversal

Editor:

Two things in the Oct. 24 issue of the *Baptist Record* caused me to retire to my study for a time of prayer. In your "Editorial Notebook," you discussed the action of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board to defund the International Seminary in Ruschlikon. The vote, you said, was 35 to 28. This said that 35 Southern Baptists are so shortsighted as not to see the new day for Christian work in Europe. As political freedom comes to more and more people in Europe, there will be greater opportunities for giving the message of Christ to that area of the world. This will call for the training of Christian workers. Please, Southern Baptists, demand that the trustees reverse their decision.

The other thing which carries me to my knees is that our convention board is not following through with our commitment to Southern Baptist causes outside of Mississippi. I know that all of our work has great needs, but surely we here at home can tighten our belts enough to increase our gifts to SBC causes by 1/2 of 1%.

Robert J. Sanderson, pastor
Springfield Church
Morton

Offering designated to Ruschlikon

Editor:

Because of recent action of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board I am designating my Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and I am sending it through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, to be sure it goes where I want it.

Ryburn T. Stancil
Brookhaven

Consider the alternative

Editor:

The trustees of the SBC Foreign Mission Board have voted to cut off funding for the Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland, founded by Southern Baptists in 1948 and faithfully supported ever since. Ruschlikon was defunded in violation of the Board's previous pledges of support through 1992, and despite FMB President Keith Parks' assertion that the action undermines the board's integrity and credibility in Europe and around the world. Parks further stated that the seminary and the opportunity to expand the Baptist witness in Europe will be "crippled" if Ruschlikon is abandoned by Southern Baptists.

Why did a majority of the trustees act so irresponsibly? Because a professor (a so-called "liberal") from our own Southern Seminary in Louisville was asked to teach there for a few months while on sabbatical! As Ruschlikon therefore is not inertant enough or fundamentalist enough to suit our new denominational watchdogs, the trustees have felt free to break our word to European Baptists.

The brazen action of the FMB trustees is insulting to the intelligence and to the faith of mission-minded Southern Baptists everywhere. Unfortunately, this outrage is nothing new, nor sadly will it be the last of its kind.

The new SBC fundamentalist "rulers" have made it their policy to corrupt or destroy those institutions which they can control, such as our now-decimated Southeastern Seminary, which soon will lose its academic accreditation. For institutions beyond their control (i.e., the Baptist Joint Committee and Ruschlikon Seminary), the strategy is to defund and abandon. The track record is there for all to see; let no Baptist be surprised at the coming dismantlement of our institutions at the eager hands of the fundamentalists who have taken over our convention.

Is it any wonder that Baptist colleges like Baylor and Furman are running for cover while they still can? And why is it that the fundamentalists now running things in the SBC profess not to understand why mainstream Southern Baptists are rethinking their traditional commitment to the Cooperative Program?

As the *Baptist Record* noted in a recent issue, the great bulk of the money given through the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has gone in support of traditional SBC missions and institutions. The 1991-92 Fellowship budget also includes support both for Ruschlikon Seminary and the Baptist Joint Committee. Isn't it high time for free Baptists to consider the Fellowship as an alternative to continued blind subsidization of destructive fundamentalism?

Greg Snowden
Meridian

Sorry for trustees of FMB

Editor:

How many people will be targets of the fundamentalist arrows? When will it stop? Evidently not until many godly people are shot and wounded.

I am referring to the Foreign Mission Board's decision to stop contributing funds to the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland due, in part, to the teaching there of Glenn Hinson who is on a four month sabbatical. Hinson has been on the hit list of fundamentalists for years. He has been harassed and ridiculed by men who obviously do not know him.

In 1978 I entered Southern Seminary in Louisville, as a young but hungry minister desiring to be all of what God would have me be. One of my first classes was entitled "Classics of Christian Devotion." The teacher was E. Glenn Hinson. I had Hinson for a couple of classes and from my first class to my last I met Christ on a daily basis through his teaching. No, I wasn't spoon fed and everything wasn't black and white, but I grew better when someone points out the gray areas. Hinson taught me that I could sense the presence of Christ in many books and devotional classics — even some written by non-Southern Baptists!

Not a day went by when Hinson wouldn't start each class with prayer. I'm not talking about a habitual "have to" kind of prayer. I'm talking about a man taking 30 or so seminary students into the very inner chamber of the Almighty. Hinson never ceased making us aware of the needs of people. His prayers were that of a man who was comfortable in God's presence because he had visited many, many times.

I feel sorry for our Foreign Mission Board trustees who feel it necessary to cut off major funds from Ruschlikon because they feel Glenn Hinson is "too liberal." Besides hurting Baptist expansion in Europe, it also limits young ministers from experiencing the teaching of a godly man like Glenn Hinson.

Scott Bebout
Meridian

Wait on the Lord

Editor:

The word "wait" has at least two meanings, physical and spiritual. The spiritual part is waiting on the Lord, seeking guidance in prayers and supplication.

Historically, mankind seems to have an obsession of running ahead of God, "helping" him out in his plans, determinations, and purposes as illustrated in the episode of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael recorded in Genesis Chapter 19.

"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint" (Is. 40:28-31).

Marvin E. Taylor
Hamilton

1800 — New Hope Baptist Church was organized on Second Creek, in Adams County.

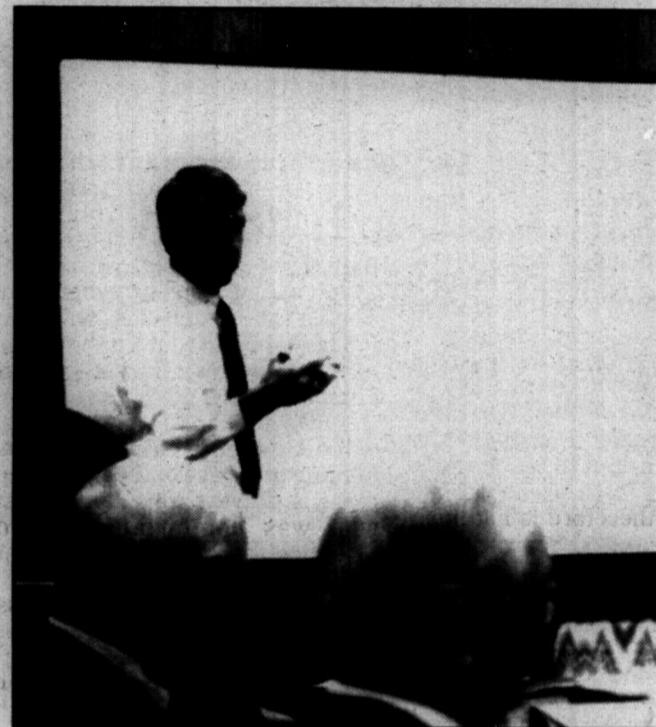
HOSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 7, 1991

HOSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mississippi Baptists to decide Cooperative Program budget



Larry Otis of Tupelo, budget committee chairman, discusses choices with the committee

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on August 26 approved a 1992 Cooperative Program budget of \$21,588,435. This budget is subject to approval by the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, November 12-13.

The board, meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson, approved the budget with only two negative votes after unanimous recommendation of both the budget committee and the board's Executive Committee.

During budget committee deliberations, the greatest discussion centered on the traditional half percent increase to SBC causes outside the state. The committee voted to recommend a \$236,235 increase for 1992. This represents a 3.05% increase in dollars over last year, and accounts for 37% of the total Cooperative Program budget, the same percentage as last year. An equal increase of 3.05% was recommended for ministries in Mississippi, which include The Children's Village, our Baptist Colleges, and local church support ministries. In the past year over 500 decisions for Christ resulted from state mission programs like Youth Night at the Coliseum, Gulfshore Assembly, and Children's Bible Drills.

The difficult decision was made in light of the sluggish economy and the desire to be fair to both the state convention and the SBC. Larry Otis, chairman of the budget committee, said: "We are not cutting our gifts to the SBC, but if we continue on the percentage increase track, by next year we would have to cut back on state mission programs and perhaps employees, too." He noted that the 1992 budget includes no new monies for MBCB programs, only raises for the staff.

The change from the 1984-initiated tradition was recommended by the budget committee because last year for the first time more of the budget increase went to SBC causes than stayed in Mississippi. Over the last five years the SBC has received the largest increases in dollars compared to other ministries which Mississippi Baptists support (See bar graph). It is easy to forget that Mississippi combines its gifts to the SBC with 37 other state conventions. The final result is that the lion's share of all Cooperative Program dollars goes to Foreign and Home missions.

The 1984 recommendation adopted by the convention asked future conventions to add a half percent to the portion of Cooperative Program gifts going to SBC causes each year. At that time, during a promotion called Planned Growth in Giving, convention leaders believed that churches would continue to increase in percentage giving to the Cooperative Program. That has not happened.

David Michel, stewardship director, told the Executive Committee that the portion of undesignated Mississippi church gifts channeled through the Cooperative Program has shrunk from 12 percent to 11.4 percent (See chart). Although this appears to be a small drop, it accounts for a loss of almost \$3,000,000 in anticipated income over the five years. Combine that with the increases to SBC over the same period and one can begin to understand the pinch the state convention faces.

Larry Otis has indicated that the budget committee, the executive committee, and the board of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are ready to add the full half percent increase per year when funds are coming in from the churches. But time is needed for church gifts to catch up with Cooperative Program allocations.

"I am pleased that our budget will increase SBC gifts by almost a quarter of a million dollars in 1992," Otis concluded, "Please pray about your own opportunity to give, and give leadership to your church in this vital matter."

This special issue of Housetops is designed to explain where the money goes and to offer insights as to what The Cooperative Program means to the giver and receiver.

1984-1991 INCREASES IN C.P. EXPENDITURES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippi Colleges and Agencies

Mississippi Church Support

\$1/2 Million \$1 Million \$1.5 Million \$2 Million \$2.5 Million

YEAR	CHURCH UNDESIGNATED RECEIPTS	TOTAL C.P. REPORTED	%
1984	133,664,318	15,766,890	11.8
1985	139,414,307	16,686,591	12.0
1986	147,097,073	17,323,384	11.8
1987	152,172,039	18,093,916	11.9
1988	159,167,049	18,649,273	11.7
1989	167,760,783	19,288,105	11.5
1990	175,402,703	20,012,466	11.4

The Best Support

Steve Walter expects to graduate from Blue Mountain College, he just became pastor of his first church, and this past May he married fellow student, Cristy.

He doesn't owe all of that to the Cooperative Program, but does acknowledge that the Cooperative Program is making a significant contribution to his life.

Steve is receiving ministerial aid from the Mississippi Baptist Board of Ministerial Education. The monthly stipends, along with scholarship money, Pell Grants, and his income from being pastor of Whittenton Church, are making Steve and Cristy's education possible.

Steve got to know Cristy on a Baptist Student Union mission trip to Colorado where they taught lifestyle evangelism to a youth group in Denver. He returned to Colorado summer of 1990 as a youth minister and the two dated by phone, marrying six months ago.

Walter says he felt a call into the ministry about four years ago when he was 17. He should graduate this school year and Cristy will finish in another year. He says he'll probably go on to seminary at Mid America and commute from the Whittenton Church.

Of the ministerial aid, says Steve Walter, "They're taking interest in what I'm doing." The Cooperative Program, he says, "is more precious now than it's ever been...it is a tremendous, tremendous avenue."



The Best Professors

Landrum Leavell is president of Mississippi's largest seminary. Of course it isn't located in the state of Mississippi, but Mississippians call New Orleans Baptist theological Seminary its own.

There are several reasons for that claim. In 1971, Baptist editors P.I. Lipsey of Mississippi and Gwaltney of Louisiana were calling for a training center for preachers in New Orleans.

"A motion by M.E. Dodd at the Southern Baptist Convention asked Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Home Mission Board to lead out in establishing the Baptist Bible Institute," now New Orleans Seminary. "From that point on," he says, "Mississippi has characteristically had the largest number of students of any state."

Leavell is a Mississippian whose father and eight uncles served Southern Baptists with distinction. "Uncle Frank was the first BSU man, my namesake, Landrum was at one time BYPU head," says Leavell. And Roland was a former New Orleans Seminary president.

Leavell was a seminary student when he became a pastor for the first time. When he went to First Baptist Church, Charleston the budget was about \$14,000. Three-and-a-half years later, "Cooperative Program gifts were more than the budget the first year," he said.

The Chester L. Quarles Chair of Missions "is presently occupied by a well-known Mississippian, Jack Glaze. Quarles is a former executive director for Mississippi Baptists and Glaze is a former missionary and professor at Mississippi College.

The second chair is the Owen Cooper Chair of Global Missions. Leavell expects that chair to be fully funded in the foreseeable future.

"In the handbook," says Leavell, "I see at least 12 members of our faculty that are Mississippians—most either MC or Carey graduates."

So, this "Mississippi seminary" has many connections with Mississippi Baptists. And derives 60 percent of its income from the Cooperative Program.



Martin Hayden: A Testimony

For most pastors, the subject of giving is not the most cherished topic for a Sunday morning sermon. To most congregations, the subject of giving ranks last on a list of desired topics. However, giving is a vital part of our walk as a believer.

Giving is an act of worship! When we come before God in worship, we first give ourselves. When our very being belongs to God, giving of our resources becomes an act of worship also.

Giving is a means of meeting needs. There are needs all around us. There are those life-threatening needs; food, clothes and shelter. There are other needs that would make our world a better place to live; health care, education, student work, etc. There is the need to evangelize our world. All of these are important. Like the Macedonians who responded to the needs of Jerusalem, we must respond to needs.

Obviously, no single church can meet all these needs. Every church, every believer, can give themselves to God. As a body of people that have given self to God, having seen the needs, we can collectively make an impact on our world as submissive servants of our Lord. It is the bringing together of our efforts that we have named "Cooperative Program", an effort to meet the needs of our world.

In November, our Convention will meet to tend to the business of Mississippi Baptist. We will vote to approve a budget that will allow us collectively to make some dent in the enormous mountain of needs in Mississippi and in our world. You and I can be a part of that effort through our gifts to our local church and in turn to the Cooperative Program. Let me encourage you to grab hold of the rope of "hope" by giving "first of yourself", to give as an act of worship, and to give as a means of meeting the needs of our world, "from Mississippi to the utter most parts of the world."



The COOPERATIVE "THE BEST WE"

John Brock, pastor of Ackerman Church, describes an observer of Cooperative Program activities as an "armchair quarterback."

This is a person "who always has a better idea of how to operate the team. When you're actually out there playing the game, you see it from a different perspective."

Brock, who is currently on the Cooperative Program Promotion Committee for the convention board, has been on both sides—from the church side as a pastor "and on the inside working on the budget making sure God's money was spent in the right way."

He adds, "All in all, it's the best program that is available today for the support of missions."

"Even though the Cooperative Program has some flaws in it, it's the best we've got, he says." I don't plan to criticize it. It's been the tool that has allowed me to carry out the Great Commission in my own life as well as the life of my church."

Raised in a Southern Baptist family, Brock said he was influenced from his earliest days toward missions causes. Since his first pastorate at age 19, churches he pastored participated in mission giving. After seminary he began to lead his churches toward giving at least 10 percent to the Cooperative Program. He said First Church, Gautier, and Van Winkle, Jackson, got up close to 20 percent. Both of his children have received



The Best Found

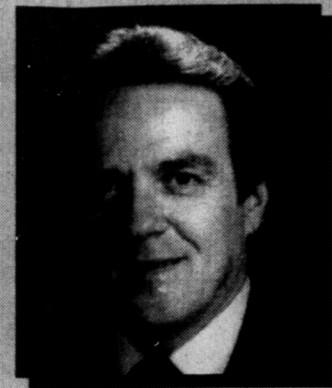
Joan Tyler walks among the oaks in her backyard in Collins, talking about the Cooperative Program. The president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union says the big old trees "remind me of the Cooperative Program. They have a very strong foundation, a very deep root system, and their branches reach out and shade my whole house."

She continues, "And then my grandchildren have been busy picking up acorns. These trees propagate themselves profusely. You can hardly keep the little oak trees down."

"The Cooperative Program is a mature plan—it has deep roots and had a good foundation and it really enables us to propagate the gospel."

The analogy continues, "There are insects and diseases that sometimes eat away at these trees. But they are mature...and the only way I'll probably get rid of these is to get a chain saw and cut them down. In other words, they'll survive."

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WE'VE GOT!"



Cooperative Program support in the form of schooling—John T. at MC and New Orleans Seminary, and daughter Janna is a senior at MC.

The Ackerman church gives 15 1/2 percent. "This church has a goal of raising it a half a percent every year when it is possible," he says. "This last year we raised it a half a percent."

What do the church folks get out of this kind of giving? "The first thing they get out of it is being obedient to the Word of God—that is support of missions. This church understands when they give to the Cooperative Program they have a hand in missions around the world."

Brock says the educational part of missions is aided by a strong Woman's Missionary Union organization with RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends. They've started a new Acteens group. And two or three times a year the church has a missionary speaker.

The Cooperative Program, says Brock, "gives us an opportunity to be a witness at home and abroad. Our church has strong leadership that believes in the Cooperative Program."

Foundation

Says Mrs. Tyler, "We have had some things to eat away at

it (the Cooperative Program) if we're going to be honest about it, but we have something good and one of the best plans, if not the best, to carry out the Great Commission which is the mission of the church."

Mrs. Tyler, whose church, First, Collins, gives 16 percent to the Cooperative Program, has seen the Cooperative Program at work on the mission field. In Hong Kong she saw a 600 bed hospital that started out as a 20 bed infirmary and a seminary with 300 students that the Cooperative Program has made possible.

She notes that WMU has recently recommitted itself to the support of the Cooperative Program "as the basic means of supporting missions." In April they devote a great percentage of their study to the Cooperative Program in their literature. And she adds, "There is a correlation between Cooperative Program giving in the church and the existence of a WMU organization."

In the WMU literature, there is a book for children about the Cooperative Program entitled "I am a part of Something Big." Says Mrs. Tyler, "That sort of sums up for me what the Cooperative Program is—I am a part of something big—we teach the children that every gift they give, no matter how small, becomes a part of something big."

The Best of Faithfulness

Providence Church in Franklin County is following faithfully a tradition begun 41 years ago. The tradition is to give 25 percent of all undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Pastor Lowell Ingram points to the cause as an active Woman's Missionary Union in the church and a former pastor, Franklin Haire, who served from 1953-87, when the church's emphasis on missions continued to grow.

Ingram, who was a senior engineer for Aetna prior to entering the ministry in 1988, lays out the finances for the 1991 church year which had a total income of \$61,181. Of that, \$14,399 went to the Cooperative Program. On top of that, \$1,656 went to state missions, \$1,151 to associational missions, and \$1,235 to the Baptist Children's Village.

"This makes me very grateful as a pastor," says Ingram. "The challenge for us as with any other church is to continue the work that our older generation set before us by taking up the mantle of commitment to the Lord's work."

This commitment is being carried out by a total resident and non-resident membership of 151, with a 65 average in attendance in Sunday School.

But they don't simply give money. On the recent World Hunger Day, they gave food for the associational pantry. Before winter sets in, men from the association and church will go as they do each year to the Dickerson Place Children's Village home in Lincoln County..

Groups from the church have gone to Chicago to help with Uptown Baptist Church, an inner city congregation that ministers to the homeless.

"In all honesty," says Ingram, "a couple of times probably, consideration was given whether to continue this (25 percent to the Cooperative Program), but the church has always chosen to remain faithful to this decision. I think it's a conscious decision not to retreat."



The Best Reputation

Every morning when **Ronny Robinson** wakes up, he says, "I'm looking for \$7,035." That's what it costs each day to operate the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

Robinson, executive director of the Children's Village, and a former child abuse and criminal investigator, receives that money from a lot of places—churches, individuals, estates, bequests, and some from parental support. But he knows that 14 percent of his total budget comes from Mississippi Baptists through the Cooperative Program, that equals 62 days of guaranteed operation each year.



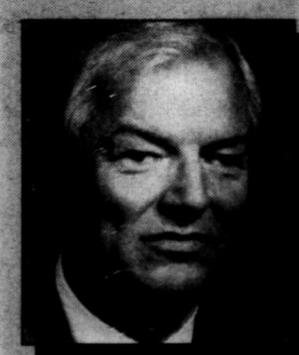
The Village doesn't just offer resident child care, although it majors on that. Five of the Jackson campus cottages are for extended care, as are the several satellite facilities around the state.

Two cottages at Jackson are designated for emergency care. Robinson says that two months ago the Brandon police phoned him at 2 a.m.. A woman who had a small child had been arrested for public drunkenness. Robinson made arrangements to go get her child that night.

One cottage is designated for maternity care. "We don't handle adoptions," Robinson says, "we contract with other children's services. Our philosophy is to minister to the mother and work with her even after she gives the child up," says Robinson, who adds that though the mother is not required to place the child for adoption, most do so.

The Village has four cottages utilized by the chemical dependency program operated jointly with the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. The hospital provides treatment; the Village provides home care.

The money that Mississippi Baptists give has helped provide an organization with a fine reputation. **"Time and time again," says Robinson, "judges and department of human resources staffers have said there's no finer residential child care facility available to them anywhere."**



Leland Hogan: A Testimony

When I think about the Cooperative Program I do not see dollars and cents, but the love of God reaching out to our world through the churches of Mississippi. It is a person who is introduced to Christ by a missionary in Zaire. It is a new church that is organized in the western U.S.A. by a pastor who uproots his family from their comfortable life in a Bible belt pastorate and moves because God calls him. It is a promising young preacher who gets his college degree from one of our four Mississippi Baptist colleges. It is a child from a broken home who needs help and our Children's Village can provide it. Yes, it is these things and many, many more.

Yet, when I see the various ministries supported by the Cooperative Program I must also realize that these ministries are dollars and cents. For without the tithes and offerings of people given to their local church and without the gifts of the churches to the Cooperative Program there are no ministries. Our implementation of the Great Commission is dollars and cents.

As a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Budget Committee for the past several years I have noted several things. One is that we must struggle to meet the basic, bottom line needs of some of our ministries. Another is that over the past several years the percentage of undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program has declined. If this continues it will become even more difficult for Mississippi Baptists to carry out our Great Commission.

I believe the Cooperative Program is God's appointed plan for Baptists to carry out the Great Commission. But if we are to continue to be the mission minded denomination God would have us be we must look carefully at where we are in relation to where God would have us be.

We need to help our church members realize that ministry is dollars and cents. Churches need to realize that the Cooperative Program is God's plan for Baptists to carry on our ministries. People and churches alike need to recommit to the greatest mission plan that any religious body ever had—the Cooperative Program.

Cooperative Program Gifts

Where Do They Go?



Around the World **37%**

Southern Baptist Convention

18.50%	Foreign Mission Board	3,993,861
7.24%	Home Mission Board	1,561,599
7.50%	Six Seminaries	1,619,111
2.91%	Other Agencies	628,634
0.85%	SBC Operations	184,516

Subtotal **7,987,721**

Across Our State **34.9%**

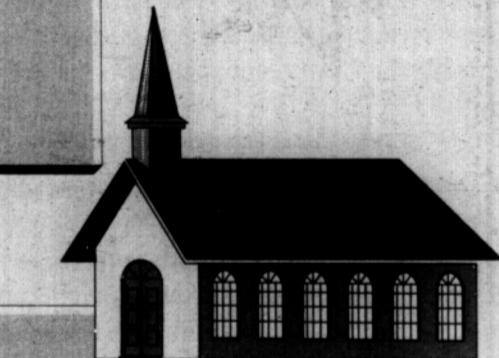
2.58%	Blue Mountain College	557,787
4.55%	William Carey College	981,818
9.48%	Mississippi College	2,046,670
0.17%	Education Commission	36,225
3.01%	Christian Education Capital Needs	650,000
2.02%	Baptist Children's Village	436,000
0.81%	Mississippi Baptist Medical Center	175,000
0.69%	Board of Ministerial Education	150,000
0.98%	Christian Action Commission	212,315
0.17%	Historical Commission	37,319
0.90%	Mississippi Baptist Foundation	193,667
3.24%	Expanded Annuity Plan	700,000
4.71%	Student Work (37 campuses)	1,016,761
0.38%	MS Baptist Convention & Committees	81,865
1.21%	MBCB Executive Director	261,046

Subtotal **7,536,473**

Into Our Churches **28.1%**

11.78%	Church Program Support	2,546,556
8.30%	Evangelism & Missions Promotion	1,790,542
5.40%	Church Services	1,160,951
2.62%	Business Administration	566,192

Subtotal



GRAND TOTAL

\$21,588,435

"Philosophical difference" with trustees led to dismissal, says Paige Patterson

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (ABP) — A "philosophical difference" between Paige Patterson and the trustees of Criswell College over the amount of time Patterson gives to the Southern Baptist Convention controversy led to his dismissal as president of the Dallas school, Patterson confirmed Nov. 1.

"Essentially they think I'm gone too much in pursuit of various things in the convention," said Patterson, 49, who is considered the driving force behind the fundamental-conservatives' rise to power in the SBC.

The 21-member board of Criswell College voted 14-1 Oct. 28 to dismiss Patterson as president and offered to create the post of vice chancellor for him. He has been president of the 21-year-old school since 1975.

Patterson's dismissal sent shock waves through the fundamental-conservative ranks. Many of the SBC's most prominent preachers who serve on a Criswell advisory board resigned in protest Nov. 1.

Interviewed by the Religious Herald while on a speaking tour at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Patterson conceded, "I found it very difficult to disengage myself from a great many things . . . and so they (trustees) finally made the decision that it would be best for me to be free to do that and to ask me to take a vice chancellorship."

He said he had "no idea at this point" if he would accept the vice chancellorship, which he called a "bump-you-upstairs type position."

Press reports that he would announce his decision Monday, Nov. 4, are inaccurate, he said. However, he added his timetable for arriving at a decision is "not likely to be long."

He also rejected rumors that financial problems at Criswell College forced his dismissal. The school recently moved from crowded quarters at First Church of Dallas to a new location in the former facilities of Gaston Avenue Church, near downtown Dallas. Extensive renovations are reputed to have been costly.

However, the college is debt free and maintains a \$15 million endowment, Patterson said. The Gaston Avenue location was given to the school by Mrs. H.L. Hunt, widow of the Dallas millionaire, Patterson said, and First Church of Dallas, which founded the school, bore the costs of the renovations.

The board "felt that I should be much more involved in fund-raising."

"That is a greater concern for them than it is for me. It is a concern for me and I do it. I've obviously raised a ton of money — about \$2 million a year, essentially, to run the thing. But it is not my major concern, and if I read them right, that is one of their major concerns. They want somebody to pursue that."

An alleged poor relationship with First Baptist's pastor, Joel Gregory, also played no role in trustees' decision, Patterson said. Rumors have circulated for months that Gregory's acceptance of the Dallas pastorate last January was contingent on Patter-

son's removal.

"I've heard that rumor repeatedly," Patterson said. "Joel categorically denies that anything like that ever happened and, based on closeness of our friendship, I myself would find it inconceivable."

Patterson said the "changing of the trustees" at Criswell College over the past few years contributed to tension between him and the board.

Patterson's supporters on the board reportedly have been systematically replaced with more critical trustees through a strategy similar to the one employed by Patterson and other SBC fundamental-conservatives to gain control of Southern Baptist agencies during the past decade.

Those changes included substituting laypersons for pastors, the Dallas Morning News reported Nov. 2. According to the newspaper, the board no longer has any pastors serving on it.

Terry Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights Church in Colonial Heights, Va., confirmed some ministers who were "very supportive" of Patterson — including Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas and Mississippi pastor Gerald Harris — have been replaced.

Harper is a member of Criswell College's board of overseers, a group of about 75 persons — mainly pastors — that he said is primarily responsible for maintaining the doctrinal integrity of the school, which is committed to an inerrantist view of Scripture.

Harper rejected any analogy between changes on Criswell College's

board and those in the SBC in recent years. "In the convention there is a definite theological issue, but in this situation (at Criswell) the issue is just power."

Patterson declined to speculate how the dismissal would affect his influence in denominational affairs, such as disputes over control of Baylor University in Texas and over Southern Baptist funding of a controversial Swiss seminary. Patterson has been deeply involved in both disputes, but said he doesn't "have a clue" what impact the dismissal will have on those issues.

The impact on Criswell College itself is clearer. Patterson said approximately three-fourths of the 335 students enrolled there have said they may leave if he is no longer president.

And 25 of the 31 members of the school's board of regents — an advisory body formed about a year ago to encourage nationwide interest in the school and raise money — resigned en masse to protest the dismissal, according to several sources.

Among the regents resigning are key fundamental-conservative leaders, such as current SBC president Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and three former SBC presidents: Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta; and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

CONVENTION

From page 3

trustees of Mississippi College but on a separate budget.

A series of testimonies on the topic "How I Met Jesus" will be given during each session. These will be by Tommy Morton of Zion Church, Pontotoc; Ronnie Cottingham of Agricola Church, Lucedale; Earl Walsh of Forest Church, Forest; Gurvir Dhindsa of First Church, Gulfport; Johnny Flynt of North Oxford Church, Oxford; and Jeff Brantley, a pitcher with the San Francisco Giants who lives in Clinton.

Music will include a concert by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen on Tuesday evening. Other choirs singing will be the choirs of Oak Forest Church, Jackson; Temple Church, Hattiesburg; First Church, Brandon; and the Blue Mountain College Chorale. Jerry Talley of Oak Forest Church will give a handbell solo and the accompanists for the convention will be Eva Hart, pianist, and Dot Pray, organist.

PATTERSON

From page 3

on denominational politics, to the detriment of the school.

Trustees promised to say nothing about the administrative change until Patterson had an opportunity to announce his plans on Nov. 4, the Morning News reported. The newspaper quoted Adkins as saying he was told by a trustee that Patterson was "negotiating" his future at the college.

Patterson, 49, was said to be out of town and unavailable for comment.

Criswell College was founded in 1970 as the Criswell Bible Institute. Patterson was elected president of the school in 1975, succeeding H. Leo Eddleman.

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6273-04	Barnes' Notes on the Old Testament & New Testament-14 vol.	\$298.50	\$108.50	6273-09	Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching (Fant/Pinson)-13 vol.	\$259.99	\$159.95
4211-00	Broadman Bible Commentary-12 vol.	\$225.00	\$117.50	6210-24	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries-20 vol.	\$159.95	\$89.95
6223-68	Daily Study Bible (New Testament) (Barclay)-18 vol.	\$145.95	\$105.95	6274-90	Westminster Pulpit (Morgan)-10 vol.	\$125.00	\$49.95
6263-17	Daily Study Bible (Old Testament) (Gibson)-24 vol.	\$195.95	\$147.50	6274-14	Word Communicator's Commentary (New Testament)-12 vol.	\$229.99	\$119.95
6274-89	Exploring the Psalms (Phillips)-2 vol.	\$49.95	\$34.95	6273-07	Word Pictures in the New Testament (Robertson)-6 vol.	\$89.95	\$49.95
6224-35	Exposition of Bible Doctrine: Romans (Barnhouse)-4 vol.	\$74.95	\$33.95	6273-08	Word Studies in the Greek New Testament (Wuest)-4 vol.	\$89.95	\$49.95
6260-49	Handfuls on Purpose (Smith)-5 vol.	\$75.00	\$36.50				
6204-61	International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (Rev.1988)-4 vol.	\$199.00	\$107.50				
6209-35	Ironside Commentaries-22 vol.	\$326.90	\$169.95	6209-49	Baptism in the New Testament (Beasley-Murray)	\$15.95	\$11.95
6260-91	Keil & Delitzsch Old Testament Commentaries-10 vol.	\$250.00	\$99.95	6158-40	Bible Reader's Companion (Richards)	\$29.99	\$24.88
6159-21	Kittel's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament-10 vol.	\$499.50	\$334.50	6253-24	The Fundamentals (Torrey)	\$16.95	\$11.95
4211-70	Layman's Bible Book Commentary-24 vol.	\$175.00	\$105.00	6209-60	Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible	\$29.95	\$21.95
6256-76	Matthew Henry's Commentary-6 vol.	\$99.95	\$41.95	6206-43	Evangelical Dictionary of Theology (Elwell)	\$39.95	\$26.95
6274-88	Miracles & Parables of Our Lord (Spurgeon)-3 vol.	\$75.00	\$30.95	6252-14	God in the Dock (Lewis)	\$12.95	\$9.95
6228-41	My Sermon Notes (Spurgeon)-4 vol.	\$24.95	\$11.50	4691-15	Handbook of Denominations (Mead)	\$13.95	\$10.95
6254-77	New Park Street Pulpit (Spurgeon)-6 vol.	\$99.95	\$39.95	6273-86	Holman Bible Dictionary	\$29.95	\$22.88
6274-91	Proclaiming the New Testament (Tumblin)-5 vol.	\$99.95	\$39.95	6283-91	Interlinear Bible	\$59.95	\$29.95
6260-52	Pulpit Commentary-23 vol.	\$595.00	\$224.95	6280-51	Jesus As They Saw Him (Barclay)	\$15.95	\$11.95
6273-06	Sermon Outline Bible (Nicoll)-12 vol.	\$195.00	\$79.95	6130-57	Jesus Is the Christ (Morris)	\$12.95	\$8.95
6273-05	Speaker's Bible (Hastings)-18 vol.	\$395.00	\$149.95	6260-48	Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah (Edersheim)	\$24.95	\$13.95
6272-99	Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee-5 vol.	\$124.75	\$74.95	6260-98	Naves Topical Bible	\$24.95	\$12.95

REFERENCE BOOKS

Baptist in the New Testament (Beasley-Murray)

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Item No.	Title	Reg. price	Sale price
6208-18	Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free (Bruce)	\$24.95	\$19.95
4691-05	Strong's Exhaustive Concordance	\$19.95	\$10.95
6204-81	Studies in the Sermon on the Mount (Lloyd-Jones)	\$18.95	\$13.95
6261-17	Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Kittel)	\$59.95	\$32.95
6209-50	Today's Handbook of Bible Characters (Blaiklock)	\$19.95	\$14.95
6256-78	Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words	\$16.95	\$8.95
6273-95	Works of Josephus	\$19.95	\$11.95
6273-54	Young's Analytical Concordance	\$21.95	\$11.95
6179-17	Willington's Guide to the Bible (Willington)	\$36.95	\$26.95

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Names in the news



Ron Howard, left, professor and head of the Department of History and Political Science at MC, has been selected as the Arts and Science Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 1991 at the college. Glen Eaves, right, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presented Howard with a plaque in honor of his selection. Howard will deliver a lecture, "Fundamental Freedoms: The Bill of Rights Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room, B. C. Rogers Student Center, MC campus.

Sam Gore, head and professor of art of Mississippi College, has been invited to demonstrate his sculpture skills during the 1992 World Congress on Arts and Medicine set for Feb. 25-March 2 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in New York City. Gore, labeled as "one who sings with his hands," will be demonstrating his talents with ongoing artistic performances in the area of sculpture.

The program cover for the World Congress, which features a woman with a guitar in watercolor and pastel, was done by Mississippi College alumnus, Edsel F. Stewart. An obstetrician-gynecologist, as well as an artist, he has achieved remarkable success in both fields.

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Meador

Brent Meador is the new medical director at Mississippi Chemical Dependency Center, a department of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He is a board-certified family physician who completed a fellowship in addiction medicine at University Medical Center.

He has a part-time appointment as an assistant professor of family medicine and is the fellowship director for the department. He is a member of American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Central Medical Society of the Mississippi State Medical Association, and Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians.

Living Through Cancer, a support group for cancer patients and their families, meets Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center at 7 p.m. For more information, call 968-3090.

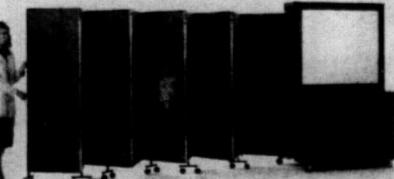


Wiltz Ott, (right) treasurer for 35 years at Osyka Church, Osyka, was recognized in a special service on Sept. 29. He is pictured receiving a plaque from John A. Giddens III, pastor. A reception was held Sunday night in his honor. Ott also served as Sunday School teacher and deacon. Ben R. Williams Jr. will serve as the new treasurer.

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Gwen South was honored with a pastor appreciation day at Pine Crest Church, Star. He was given a love offering with a covered dish lunch following the morning service. South has been pastor since Nov. 26, 1990, and served as interim pastor for several months prior. The church has received 36 members during his ministry. The program was presented by the chairman of deacons, J. W. Collins, who is 89 years old and a charter member.

Improve Church, Marion Association, held the "B. Alfred Jones Appreciation Day," on Sept. 29. Jones, a long time resident of Marion County and a member of Improve Church, has served as pastor, interim pastor of churches in Marion Association since 1945, as well as teaching in the Marion County school system. During the morning service, with members of his family and guests, Improve Church surprised him with a picture album of memorabilia, a plaque expressing appreciation, and a love offering. Following the service a lunch was held in fellowship hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jones (pictured). Dale Funderburg is pastor.

Wayne Crenshaw has resigned as pastor of Temple Church, Jackson. He has served churches in the Hinds/Madison and Rankin associations for 20 years. He will be available for pulpit supply, interim pastor, and revivals as of Dec. 1. He may be contacted at his home: 118 Noblin Bridge Road, Pelahatchie, MS, 39145, phone (601) 546-2379.

Mantee church sets records

Mantee Church in Webster Association, Malcolm Pinion, pastor, has about 281 resident members. For years it has set records in stewardship and mission giving. In the last five years, its offerings to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon mission offerings were in excess of \$206,000. Its total mission efforts for the five year period was nearly \$250,000.

Personal involvement is also a vital part of Mantee's ministry. Since 1987, the church participated in six mission trips to Honduras, four trips to Mexico, and one to Japan. Stateside they have worked in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tupelo, New Orleans, North Carolina, Houston, Texas, Marksville, La., and Georgia. Over \$35,000 not reported in other mission gifts was given to support this work. Charles Gordon, director of missions in Choctaw/Webster Association, believes that this effort is noteworthy and commends the church for its vision.

Revival dates

West Laurel, Laurel: Nov. 13-17; Gerald Shook, evangelist; Paul Koonce, music; Wed.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. lunch and 7 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Cary F. Worthington, pastor.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the October 10 issue of the Baptist Record: Jeff Davis: Dublin; Lafayette: Clear Creek; Northwest: Wyatt; Winston: Harmony; and Yazoo: Southside.

Carey appoints Valentine as dean of music

William Carey College has announced that Milfred Valentine has been appointed to the position of dean of the Winters School of Music and director of the Carey Chorale. Valentine, who is currently chairman of the division of fine arts at Jones Junior College, will assume his new post in June 1992. His involvement in student recruiting will begin immediately.

For the past ten years Valentine has directed the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. Under his direction they toured Argentina and Uruguay in 1983, sang the opening concert for the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Convention in 1986, and toured Korea and Hong Kong in 1988. The choir performs annually for the Mississippi Baptist Con-

vention, Evangelism Conference, and Church Music Conference, as well as local churches.

Valentine's choirs at Jones have performed at the Southern Division of the American Choral Directors Association Convention, and in 1988 performed Haydn's "The Creation" at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York. Recently the choir toured England and France, singing at Westminster and Canterbury Cathedrals in England and at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

For 28 years he has been music director at Second Avenue Church in Laurel, as well as being on the Jones faculty.

Valentine, a native of Jones County, received the bachelor of music and master of music degrees at Louisiana State University, and was awarded the doctor of philosophy degree in music education by University of Southern Mississippi.

He is married to the former Linda Jones of Laurel and they have two children, David and Vicki Lynn.

First, Starkville, again will present "Lottie D"

First Church, Starkville, will present two performances of "Lottie D," a dramatic musical about an extraordinary woman, Lottie Moon, Southern Baptist missionary to China for 40 years.

The first performance at the church will be Sunday, Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. and the second on Monday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.

F. Tanner Riley, minister of music, said that other churches may call or write First, Starkville (phone 324-4969) for reserved seating. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be taken to help defray production costs.

Last year, as a direct result of "Lottie D," states R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor, "The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at First Church, Starkville, was \$40,000, the same goal as the year before to which we had not come close. The economy locally was on a low ebb and it appeared that our goal was only a dream. By the end of December, however, \$50,000 had been

given. Excitement prevailed throughout the whole congregation! 'How do you explain it, preacher?' — was the common question. Well, I don't really have an explanation, but I am confident that the moving presentation of 'Lottie D' had a genuine effect on the pocketbooks, as well as the hearts of this congregation. With one talented cast presenting this challenging musical drama, the Spirit of God moved in an unusual way among us. It happened among us. It could happen with you. Come, hear, and see."

Kent Marshall, a student at Mississippi State University, attended the Sunday morning presentation of the musical drama last year during exam time. He said that for the first time he was confronted with the possibility of being a missionary himself. He was moved to explore the opportunities for being a BSU summer missionary and effectively served as a student missionary this past summer in California.

Resolution passed in Clay Association

James R. Walker, clerk for the Clay County Association, reports that the association passed the following resolutions in its annual meeting, held in October:

— deplored the proposed 11% health insurance increase premium increase plus the fact that health insurance has risen more than 300% since 1984. Staff members age 50 or more feel their trust in the Annuity Board has been betrayed.

— calling upon the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to reinstate the one-half of 1% increase to SBC causes, and stating that the association wholeheartedly supports Bold Mission Thrust.

Homecomings

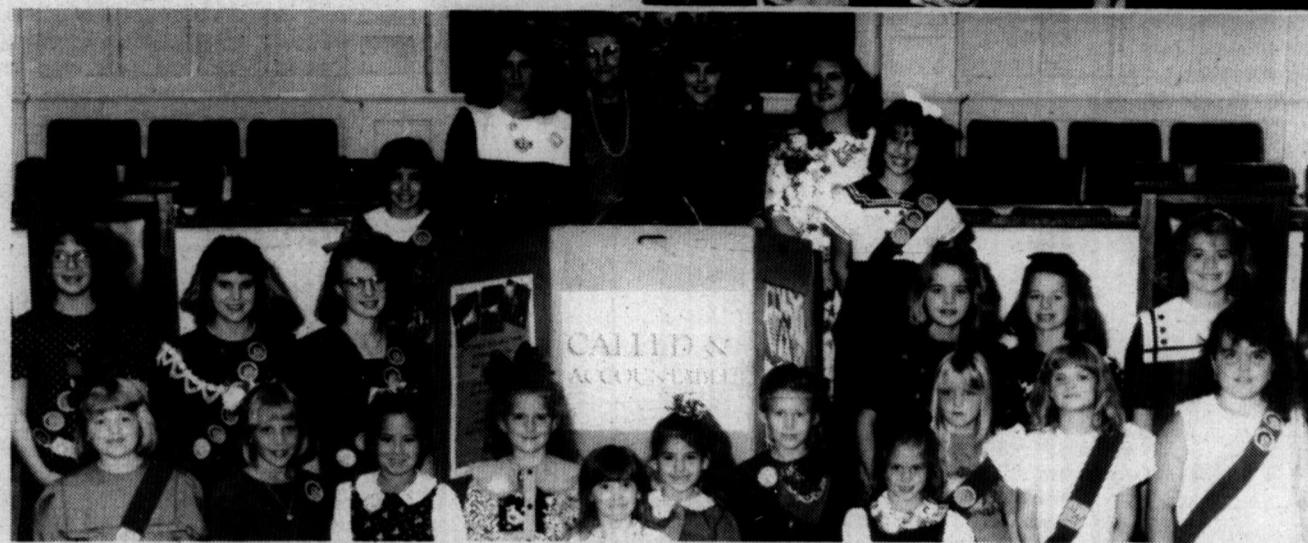
Macedonia Church, Meridian: Nov. 10; 11 a.m.; Oster Daniels, Carthage, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1 p.m.; The Prodigals Quartet from Laurel, guest singers; Danny Moss, pastor.

Horseshoe Church, Tchula (Holmes-Leflore): Nov. 10; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11, with Robert E. Self of Brookhaven as guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; Rob Futral Jr., pastor.

Linwood, Union: Nov. 10; Tommy Anderson, guest speaker; a benefit singing for Mrs. Jean Nicholson following noon meal; featured singers will be The Pearl Hill Boys and Brenda and Tommy Anderson.

Just for the Record

Fairview Church, Columbus, burned the note on its \$1.4 million educational building on Oct. 6. The 37,000 sq. ft. facility provides space for preschool, children, youth, and offices. The congregation used "TOGETHER WE BUILD" as the financial basis for the building for the second time in ten years. A \$1.4 million dollar worship center was completed in 1983 and paid for in 1985. Pictured, left to right, are Jerry Lavender, chairman of deacons; Mickey Dalrymple, pastor; and Lynn Slayton, chairman of the building committee.



First Church, Hazlehurst, recently held GA recognition. Out-going girls received sashes and badges, while in-coming girls were presented GA pins. Pictured, front row, are Madeline Price, Laura Pickard, Whitney Yeates, Alice Claire Thompson, Sheila Capon, Ashlea Brooks, Laura Stewart, Katherine Thomas, Caron Brister, Jennifer Dubose, and Jackie Williams.



Meadville Church, Franklin Association, recently honored its GAs with a recognition service. Pictured, left to right, are Ashley Stephens, Ashley Bennet, Britton Lewis, Lacy Oglesby, Lauren Campbell, April Smallwood, Allan Southerland, and Jessica McDowell.

Old fashioned homecoming was held at Pecan Grove Church, Ellisville, on Oct. 27. Bill Nobles delivered the sermon. Note burning ceremony was held after lunch. Honored guests were Mr. and Mrs. Russell Cottingham. Barbara Shows was chosen as best dressed woman and Rocky Brooks best dressed man.

Mike Gilchrist, evangelist from Shreveport, La., will be in a one day discovery crusade at West Ellisville Church, Ellisville. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 a.m. The evening schedule will begin at 6 p.m. and continue with a 7 p.m. service. Dwight L. Smith is pastor of West Ellisville Church.

Senior adult corner

The first area 9 senior adult retreat will be held at Gulfshore on Feb. 3-5, 1992. "Heritage, Happiness and Hope Through Living in His Image" is the conference theme.

All senior adults are welcome to participate. For registration information, call First Church, Gulfport, 863-8501.

Program personalities are: Raymond Lloyd, Nathan Barbour, Dean Register, R. L. and Beth Sigrest, Ovid Vickers, and Ethel McKeithen.

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Thursday, November 7, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Medical-Dental Fellowship to meet in Dallas

The national meeting of Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship will be held Nov. 14-17 at the Harvey Hotel in Dallas, Tex. "Healing the World's Hurts" is the theme. The Doctors Four of Laurel will present special music on Thursday evening.

MSU BSU launches missions project

Mississippi State Baptist Student Union raises money for BSU student missions through two major projects, exam care packages and "Missions Madness." Last year's goal was \$10,500. Last summer this BSU had 12 students to serve through student missions, two in foreign countries, five in California, and five in other part of the USA.

BSU students will deliver exam care packages to MSU students for a minimum donation of \$8.00. The package is filled with helpful "goodies" — pens, pencils, nabs, peanuts, fruit, coupons, devotionals, and a note from home. The deadline for ordering these packages is Nov. 26.

"Missions Madness" is a day of wild and crazy games, creative competition, testimonies, missions emphasis, and Christian music sponsored by the MSU Baptist Student Union. It is an opportunity for junior and senior high youths to share in Christian fun and fellowship. "Missions Madness" will be April 25, 1992, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams, plus a spirit award.

The BSU needs help in these ways: (1) remember your MSU student with an exam care package, (2) encourage your church youth group to participate in "Mission Madness," and (3) pray for the students as they work to reach the missions goal.

For more information, contact the MSU Baptist Student Union, P. O. Box BU, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or call (601) 323-5761.

Staff changes

Mildred Sadowski, church secretary at Tate Street Church, Corinth, retired effective Sept. 30 after 22 years of service. Tommy N. Snyder is pastor.

Highland Church, Laurel, has called Mike Keen as associate pastor, youth and activities. A native of Crossett, Ark., he received his BA degree from Ouachita Baptist University and master's degree from New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, Tenn.

Briarwood Drive Church, Hinds-Madison Association, has called Miss Kim Stevens as youth director, effective Sept. 11. She is currently attending Mississippi College.

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W.A. CRISWELL, EDITOR

Be calm in a crisis — God is still in control

By Kiely Young
Acts 21:26-33, 37-39

I once heard a preacher describe a dilemma facing many folks in crisis, "It's not what I think, or what you think, that is important.

Rather it is what I think you think that makes the difference." Paul had nothing but proper intentions as he took a group of men to the temple in Jerusalem. But those who saw him in the city decided Paul was desecrating the temple with Gentiles. They just came to a false conclusion and Paul's life was in danger as a result. But Paul demonstrated strong faith and a calm spirit. We should take heed.

A Contentious Crowd (Acts 21:26-30).

Paul came to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, encourage Christians, and spread the gospel. As he began to share with the



Young
ed strong faith and a calm spirit. We should take heed.

UNIFORM

disciples in Jerusalem the wondrous works of God in Ephesus, they got excited. They expressed joy that Jews and Gentiles alike had become believers. They also expressed amazement that many of the Jewish Christians were continuing to walk after the customs of the law. They felt these Jewish Christians would listen to Paul if he went to the temple with four Nazarene believers for days of purification. Paul submitted to their request and provided an offering for these men, though not participating in the vow himself.

The temple area was separated into a Court of the Gentiles, and an inner court to Jews. A solemn inscription on the wall read, "No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught so doing will have himself to blame for his ensuing death." Some Jews saw Paul in the temple and jumped to the conclusion that he "brought Greeks also into the temple and hath polluted this holy place" (v. 28). They had seen Trophimus, an Ephesian, with

Paul and assumed Paul had taken him into the temple. They stirred the crowd to a point of riot, grabbed Paul, and threw him out of the temple.

It is an absolute tragedy when a religious people set their emotions in gear while their minds are in neutral. But such is the logic of prejudice.

A Controlled Centurion (Acts 21:31-36).

The outraged crowd was literally about to beat Paul to death when the centurion in the Tower of Antonia heard the commotion. He sent a cohort of soldiers to investigate. He took Paul to be an Egyptian rebel, had him put in chains, and taken away. When the centurion asked the crowd what had caused the riot and why they were beating Paul, no one could agree or be certain of the cause. Paul was then ordered to be taken to the castle.

This may have seemed like Paul's situation suddenly turned from bad to worse. Often crisis situations look for the moment like there is no reasonable solution. Far too often hasty action is taken to try to remedy the situation. We must learn patience and perseverance. God is still in control.

A Calm Cilician (Acts 21:37-39).

After being taken into custody by Claudius Lysias, Paul took opportunity to explain the situation. Lysias was amazed to hear Paul speak in the native language of the people, since he had assumed Paul to be an Egyptian insurrectionist. Paul quickly responded, "I am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia." Paul then quieted the crowd and explained his purpose in Jerusalem. Simply stated, Paul then shared his Christian testimony. In Chapter 22, Paul shared his life of being a zealous Jew, his dramatic conversion on the Damascus road, and God's call upon his life.

Every Christian has a testimony to share. We speak of our lives before becoming a Christian, how we became Christians, and what Christ is presently doing in our lives. We should look for opportunities to share our testimonies, whether it is a moment of crisis like Paul found himself in, or over a cup of coffee with a friend.

Paul's crisis teaches us that God is still in control. He can use the most trying confrontations for his glory if we are available.

Young is pastor, First, Greenville.

Freedom and the Christian's rights

By Randy W. Turner
1 Corinthians 9:1-27

William Willimon, dean of the chapel at Duke University, reminds us that the language of rights is not a particularly biblical language.

Paul, in this passage of Scripture, strongly asserts his rights while he just as strongly declares that he will waive them. It seems to be the human thing to do to demand our rights. It seems to be the Christian thing to do to waive our rights for Christ's sake.

Paul asserts his rights (1 Corinthians 9:1-6) and gives examples to support his assertion (9:7-12a). However, Paul refuses to use his rights (9:12b-18) and clearly states his reason (9:19-22). Paul does not wish to hinder the gospel even if it means sacrificing his rights.

I. The obligation of speech. No doubt the apostle had, in a special sense, a "necessity laid upon" him, which was first laid upon him on that road to Damascus and repeated many



Turner

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times in his life (9:16). Every Christian is as truly bound as was Paul to preach the gospel, to speak forth the good news of Jesus Christ when he said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," was not speaking just to the eleven but to all generations of his church. While there are many other motives on which we may rest the Christian duty of propagating the Christian faith, I think that we shall be all the better if we find our motivation in the distinct and definite command of Jesus Christ.

That commandment is permanent. It is exactly contemporaneous with the duration of the promise which is appended to it and whosoever suns himself in the light of the latter is bound by the precept of the former. "Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world," defines the duration of the promise and it also defines the duration of the duty. We all, if we know anything of Christ and his love and his power, are bound to tell it to those whom we can reach. Nothing can absolve Christians from the obligation.

II. The penalty of silence. "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel" (9:16). If you are a silent and idle professor of Christ's truth, depend upon it that your silent idleness will rob you of much communion with Jesus Christ. There are many Christians who would be much happier, more joyous, and more assured Christians if they would go and talk about Christ to other people. When God's word is locked up in their hearts it melts away unknown and they lose more than they suspect of the sweetness and buoyancy and assured confidence that might mark them.

A further penalty of silence is the self-absorbed life. There is the loss of one of the best ways of confirming one's own faith in the truth; that is, that of seeking to impart it to others. If you want to learn a thing, teach it. If you want to grasp the principles of any science, try to explain it to somebody who does not understand it. If you want to know where in these days of controversy the true vital center of the gospel is and what the essential part of the revelation of God is, go and tell sinful men about Jesus Christ who died for them. There is no greater joy accessible to a man than that of feeling that through his words Christ has entered into a brother's life.

III. Obedience which transcends the limits of obligation. "If I do this thing willingly, I have a reward" (9:17). Paul desired to bring a little more than was required in token of his love to his master and of his thankful acceptance of the obligation. The artist who loves his work will put more into his picture than is absolutely needed and will linger over it lavishing diligence and care upon it because he is in love with his task.

Paul willingly went the second mile to "present the gospel without charge" and not abuse his "authority in the gospel" (9:18). He happily became "all things to all men that he may by all means save some" (9:22).

The essence of it all is, do not let us do our Christian work reluctantly. Let us seek for the joy of service which is not contented with the bare amount of the tribute that is demanded but give something over because of our love to him. When we are tempted to demand our rights, let us remember that it is always the Christian thing to do to waive our rights for the sake of the gospel of Christ.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

Return God's love by obeying, trusting, remembering

By Don Dobson
Deuteronomy 6:4-12, 16-17

Have you ever attended some type of conference on family life or marriage enrichment? If you have, then you have been faced with the ultimate question: "What is love?" Try to define love in terms that adequately describe how you feel about love. It's very hard to do. We, ourselves, know what love is, but it's not so easy to verbalize it to someone else.

Let's be honest. It's a lot easier to demonstrate our love than to define it. After all, guys, that's why we have florists and Hallmark stores.

Today, we will look at ways that believers can demonstrate their love for God. Our focal passages show us how to express this love in a wholehearted way.

I. Love for God is expressed with our whole being (vv. 4-5).

The pattern of this commandment in verses 4-5 was chosen by Jesus as his own confession of the ultimate commandment. Followers of God are to recognize his unity and his uniqueness. He is one God, it is only natural that we strive to love him. This love can only be totally demonstrated by our whole being. Everything that we are, have, will ever have, think, or love must be devoted to our Creator. It is an awesome thought. It is safe to say that only Christ our King has fully completed this task.



Dobson

LIFE AND WORK

II. Love for God is expressed by obeying his commands (vv. 6-9).

As in any family relationship, love and respect are shown by paying attention to other members' wishes. My children can best show their love by obeying. I do not wish them to obey out of fear, but rather out of love and respect.

So it is with our relationship with God. To be sure we are "God fearing," but we are more than that. We are part of the family of God. Now, because we are part of this family, we are to pay attention to and obey our Father.

A good application of this expression of love is to teach God's laws in our homes. In verse 7, we are instructed to make the truths of God a natural part of our homes. This will help to shape hearts and minds.

III. Love for God is expressed by remembering (vv. 10-12).

We are called on to remember many events in our lives. For example, what is the date of your birth, your social security number, and a host of other details. Some of these details will be important, some will not. However, nothing will ever be as important to recall as God's graciousness to us.

Just as Israel was brought into a land teeming with provisions, our God has led us into the land of forgiveness. Here we find hope, promise, love, and redemption. We did not stock the land, God did. He did it because he is Jehovah-Jireh, our Lord the Provider. We show our love by remembering this.

IV. Love is not expressed by demanding proof (v. 16).

This verse warns us against calling on God to prove himself. Those that love God do not ask for proof, they live completely on his promise and provision.

Should we really call upon those that love us to prove it? Think about it. Must you challenge

God to a continual game of "What have you done for me lately?"

His love for all of us was manifested once and for all on Calvary's cross. We reciprocate that love by giving him our whole being, by obeying his command, by remembering, and by trusting.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

Brotherhood trustees approve reorganization

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — James D. Williams, newly-installed president of the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, revealed his vision of the agency's future to its board of trustees and gained approval for reorganization of the staff, the outline of a long-term corporate planning process, and a list of short-term strategic growth goals for 1991-92.

The agency's trustees, meeting Oct. 25-26, unanimously approved a personnel reorganization plan that creates the office of program services and the office of support services, while moving the functions of the church and denominational relations division to the office of the president and to program services.

Michael Day, currently director of church and denominational relations, was elected as associate to the president and will be responsible for denominational relations, communications, planning, and research. Douglas Beggs, now serving as director of the adult division, was elected as vice-president for the office of program services, a new position. Jim Ferguson, now serving as director of Baptist Men and Senior Baptist Men under Beggs, was elected as director of the adult division.

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capsules

"TELEAMIGO" BREAKS RECORD IN COLOMBIA: CALI, Colombia — "Teleamigo," a Baptist telephone ministry in Cali, Colombia, has received the largest number of calls ever — 89,571 — in a single month. In addition, five people who became Christians through the ministry recently have been baptized. "Teleamigo" callers dial a number to hear a 60-second taped inspirational message. They may then dial another number for counseling by phone or in person. "Teleamigo," which combines the Spanish words for "telephone" and "friend," also operates in Medellin, Colombia, in Caracas, Venezuela, and in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It was to begin in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October. A variation of "Teleamigo" offering a Bible correspondence course has been started in Mexico and Panama.

CAROLYN CAUTHEN MATHEWS DIES OF CANCER: SANTA FE, N.M. — Carolyn Cauthen Mathews, 54, died Sept. 29 in Santa Fe, N.M., after a long bout with cancer. She was the daughter of Eloise Cauthen and the late Baker James Cauthen, former executive director of the Foreign Mission Board. Most recently Mathews was a librarian for the New Mexico State Library.

CROATIAN BAPTISTS PLEAD AGAIN FOR PRAYERS: ZAGREB, YUGOSLAVIA (EBPS) — The bomb that hit the presidential palace in Zagreb last week seriously affected the headquarters of Croatian Baptists as well. The headquarters of the Baptist Union of Croatia is located on the premises of Duhovna Stvarnost, an international society which serves as a Christian resource center. The center maintains publishing as well as charity ministries. The bomb hit the palace around four o'clock in the afternoon, said Branko Lovrec, president of Croatian Baptists. He and his wife, Mirjana, who edits the Baptist periodical *Glas Evangelijski*, were restricted to the office by an air raid. The Lovreks were on the ground floor when a rocket hit the building just 60 meters away, shattering the windows of the Baptist book shop. "Only God saved my wife from being injured," Lovrec said. "She was typing at her desk near the window when it struck." Lovrec stated that Baptists in Croatia continue to plead for the prayers of all Christians around the world. "Ask them to pray for peace and for a final settlement of our political and national situation," he said.

UNITY PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARATHON WALKERS: EUROPE — A London-to-Berlin prayer walk is to pave the way for next year's Continent-wide March For Jesus prayer-and-praise chain, expected to see hundreds of thousands taking part in over 20 capitals and cities.

"THE RANKIN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS" BECOMES "THE MISSISSIPPI CHORUS": One of the newest musical organizations on the Jackson scene is the Rankin County Community Chorus which was founded two years ago. This group is directed by Martin Bittick. Their board of directors recently announced that their name was officially being changed to "The Mississippi Chorus." On Dec. 10, The Mississippi Chorus will perform "The Messiah" with the Mississippi Symphony with Colman Pearce conducting. Next spring they will perform the Mozart "Requiem" as a part of their concert season with Martin Bittick conducting. In addition, they will perform a concert version of "The Mikado" with Pearce and The Mississippi Symphony. Interested singers wishing to sing with "The Mississippi Chorus" may contact Martin Bittick at 825-8730.

BAGHDAD CHURCH GROWING: BAGHDAD, Iraq — "The shackles binding the church were broken" during the Persian Gulf war, and Christians in Baghdad now openly spread their faith, said a Christian who visited the Protestant Evangelical Church of Baghdad. During the war Christian families met for prayer and Bible reading in church shelters — and they say many others joined them, including Muslims. Some of those visitors have become Christians.

The nameless famous

By Jack Winscott
Luke 16:19-31

Our Lord said, "It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter God's kingdom." There was and is a very small "person-sized" gate to Old Jerusalem that was left open, but well-guarded for those coming into the city after dark.

A merchant arriving late with his goods loaded on his camel necessarily unloaded all these goods and carried them through the gate, called the "needle's eye." Then with care and persuasion, he coaxed his camel on its knees through the gate. On the city side of the wall the camel regained his load and his feet to proceed "home."

Could this be Christ's picture of true repentance? Anyone coming to him must enter on his knees spiritually without any other burden but sin.

True gratitude begins at confession and forgiveness — our redemption. Our worth comes from not who we are but whose we are — belonging to God's family through child-like faith.

Our Lord doesn't name the rich man — only his attendant beggar. And Lazarus is not only impoverished, he is covered with open sores the dogs were licking for the taste of blood that was there.

No cause for their deaths is given, but both die and the nameless rich man finds himself separated from God and anything good in hell.

Lazarus is seen by Abraham's side. What a switch in status!!

Our world is full of the "get more and more" folks, even us. Those without anything are seeking to survive their present circumstances. Can it be that those with so little are genuinely grateful for the "biggies" — knowing the Lord and lovingly seeking to serve him?

Winscott is pastor of Prentiss Church, Prentiss.



Winscott

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

A prisoner's testimony

By Billy Wallace

Like most young boys growing up in the country, I found that hunting, fishing, and the local swim hole were my favorite things. There were of course, sports in the local high school and these offered me an option that would soon send me down a road of illusion and denial.

At the age of 12, I smoked my first joint of marijuana. My last two years in high school were probably my most rebellious. I had been raised in a respectable home by loving parents but I rejected the "shell" that had been around me because of my athletic ability. This was the beginning of illusion and denial which would ultimately end in destruction.

My senior year, I decided to join the Navy. I was given a discharge from the Navy for a higher education, though education wasn't exactly what I was looking for. Drugs, sex, and rock-n-roll were the order of the day. I remember the words of my dad on Father's Day of 1976, as we pulled onto the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi: "Do you know where you will be ten years from today?" This was a proud day for my father, to see his son attending college on a baseball scholarship and it was a part of his dream for me being fulfilled.

It is hard to pass when you don't go to class. Between partying and going to class, I chose to party. Wrong choices are just as bad as misplaced freedom and being our own boss without any direction in our lives is like a runaway locomotive; sooner or

later, it is going to leave the track. I began to run further from reality and into a fantasy world of thinking life was just a party and I wanted to be the center of it. After my sophomore year, I was dismissed for academic disciplinary action and it really didn't matter to me.

I found my way to the oil field and it was here that I was introduced to a needle. The fantasy world that I was living in just exploded into one lie after another.

From 1979 to 1984, life was a roller coaster ride. On Oct. 16, 1984, while sitting in a bar room contemplating suicide, I did as so many do, I cried out to God. I went to an altar that night and asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and when I got up, a change had taken place in my life.

However, I backslid and returned to the mire from which the Lord had delivered me. I was blinded by a greater darkness than I had ever known and my life was completely out of control. In 1985, I took the life of a man in cold-blood thinking I was doing his children and ex-wife a great service. This brought me to the place I am now, Parchman Penitentiary, and also answered the question asked by my father so many years before.

Again, my life having wrecked, I cried out to God, only this time I made a commitment to the Lord that I would serve him no matter what it cost or where he sent me. Though it may sound strange to some, I thank God for prison, for it was here that I truly met Jesus and in this place of

solitude from society, I have learned to lean on the Lord and trust him for all things (Proverbs 3:5-7).

Dear friend, freedom has a price tag. God sent his only begotten Son to pay the price of true freedom with his precious blood (John 3:16; Colossians 1:14). What we do in this life, we must give an account of in the day of judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27). What a joy it is to know that our sins are under the blood of Jesus, that he is Lord of all! It was only when I came to the place that I no longer wanted to be boss, and my freedom wasn't important to me anymore, that I truly found freedom. Success and freedom are not to be measured by the materialistic standards of our society, but by the person of Jesus Christ in us.

Currently, I have the pleasure of being an inmate pastor at the unit where I am housed. Though prisons are rocked with violence and corruption, God is raising up an army inside these walls who aren't ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16-17). God's Spirit is not bound by distance, walls, or barriers of any type and he will be in the midst of two or three that call out to him from a pure heart. "To God be the glory, great things he hath done" is a command to the people of God to "rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say REJOICE!" (Phil. 4:4).

Wallace is an inmate at Parchman, serving a life sentence for murder.

Ridgecrest gives handy household tips

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Senior adults can get by without calling a professional for every needed house repair by learning a few handy tips, maintenance crew members from Ridgecrest said.

In their "Tips from a Handyman" conference, Larry Burton, Barry Wilcox, Bill Metcalf, and Mark Penley demonstrated a few tricks of the trade to senior adults attending a Chautauqua at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, Oct. 7-11.

The men showed senior adults how to maintain or make minor repairs on their electric water heaters, light switches, plugs, refrigerators, air-conditioned units, and toilets. They also provided a few helpful painting hints.

Burton suggested getting two to three bids on a job "just to keep people honest. And don't pay until the work is finished."

Metcalf, a maintenance technician and electrician, demonstrated the logistics of a refrigerator. He said if the gasket around the door is worn, warm air could be seeping in and causing the refrigerator to run harder.

"You don't have to throw your refrigerator away if you're having trouble with your gasket. It's changeable, but I'd call somebody to do it."

Another way to keep the refrigerator running longer is to clean the lint and dust behind the appliance.

Metcalf also told the senior adults never to use a knife to dislodge ice when defrosting a refrigerator. "If you hear a hissing sound when you do that, you might as well go out and get you a new refrigerator."

The best way to keep an air-conditioned unit running properly, he said, is to periodically change the filter. When the filter isn't changed, Metcalf said the dust is sucked back into the unit causing mechanical difficulties.

"If you are not comfortable working with electricity, don't do it. Just call somebody," Wilcox said. He said if anyone in the group is having problems with a gas water heater "call the gas company and let them handle it."

Wilcox demonstrated how to drain the water tank before replacing a part — a method that is necessary. It is also necessary to replace the water before turning the power back on to the repaired tank, he said. "Or else you'll be going out and buying the same part the second time."

He said setting the thermostat to about 120 degrees is a "good temperature for safety and economy."

Wilcox also showed the group how to replace regular light switches, three-way light switches, wall outlets (plugs or receptacles), and lamp plugs.

"It is always good to draw a diagram before you take anything apart," he said. "That way you'll know what it's suppose to look like when you go putting it back together."

Mark Penley, painter, carpenter, and artist, advised the group to do their "preparation work right" before beginning any painting.

To fill small, fist-size holes in walls, spackling compound must be used, he said.

"But if all you need to do is fill in a nail hole where you want to change a picture around, you can do that with

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